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Russia Backs EU Role, Pledges Full Effort for Mideast Peace Process

CAIRO — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov pledged here Wednesday that Moscow would throw its full weight behind the Middle East peace process and backed a role for the European Union (EU).

"We will make the maximum effort," he said at a joint news conference after talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mussa, "to assure the continuation of the negotiations and the peace process."

(Contd on Pg. 14)

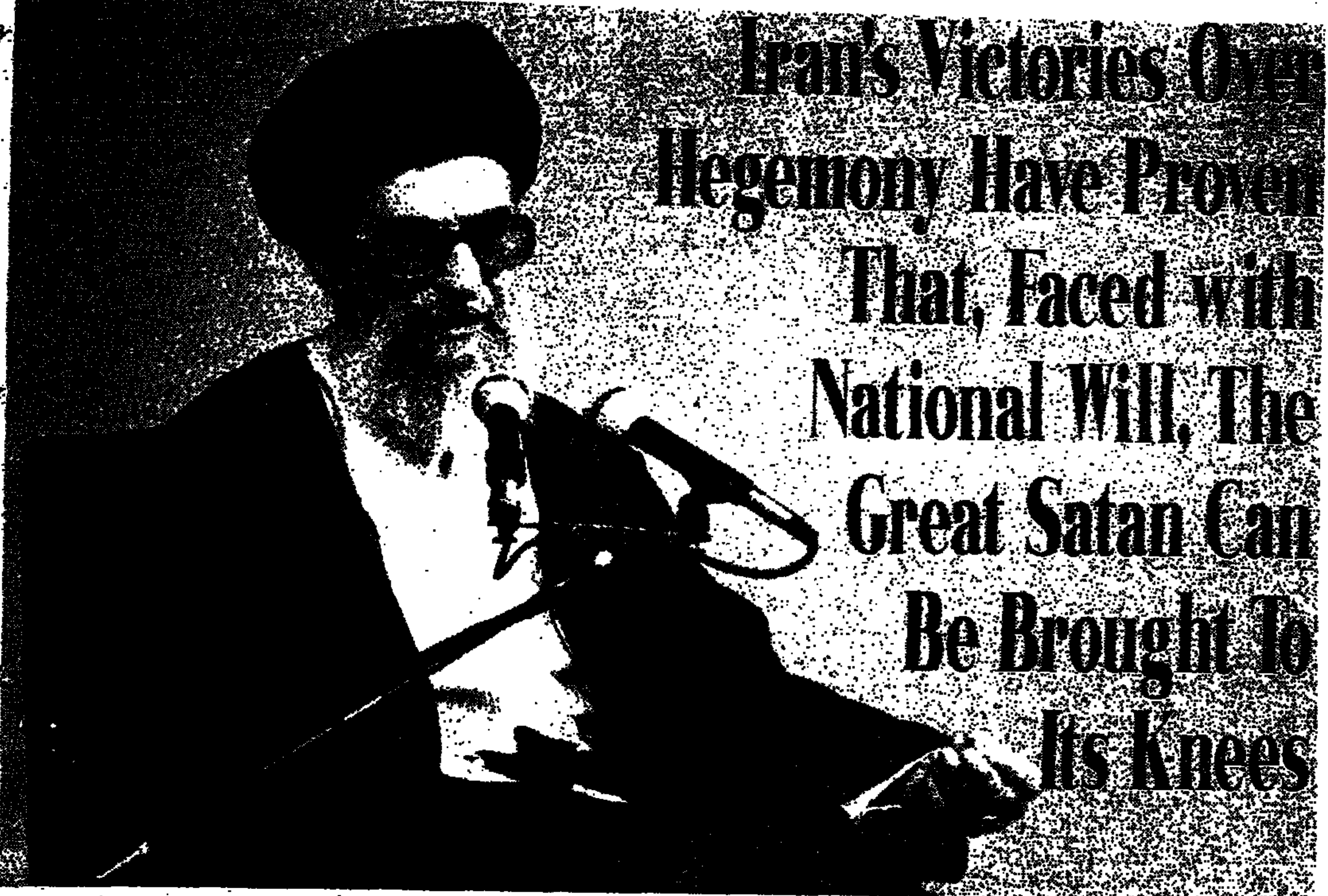
Israel Will Pay a High Price If It Attacks Syria

DAMASCUS — Syria on Wednesday denounced Israeli military exercises on the occupied Golan Heights and warned that the Zionist state will pay a heavy price if it starts a war.

"An attack on Syria will not be the leisurely stroll that Israeli leaders may expect because the aggressor will suffer heavy losses and pay the price," the official Syrian newspaper Teshrin said.

The Israeli Army launched major ground and air maneuvers Tuesday on the Golan Heights, which it captured from Syria in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and annexed in 1981.

(Contd on Pg. 14)



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN—Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, on Wednesday stressed that the fight against global arrogance, of which the U.S. is a clear example, should remain a major theme in our country's policy.

The U.S. has realized, the Leader said, that as long as hostility with the U.S. prevails in the Islamic Republic of Iran, it cannot restore its former cultural presence, interference in our internal affairs or domination over our economic resources. Resorting to different plots, the U.S. has tried to deceive the Iranian nation.

Addressing a group of students and teachers on the eve of the National Day for Campaign Against Arrogance (13th Aban), the Leader said that sending the Father of the Islamic Revolution into exile, killing university students amid the nation's struggle against the tyrannical regime of the Shah, and engaging in espionage activities against the newly-established Islamic system in Iran—which led to the takeover of the former U.S. embassy—reveal U.S. attempts to nip the righteous voice of the Iranian nation in the bud.

The Leader stressed that the U.S., and any dominating power, first attempts to delineate an invincible image of itself before a nation, then attempts to exert different pressures on the nation, either through economic sanctions or a propaganda campaign.

After trying different pressures, when the arrogant power believes a nation is helpless, it will propose a dialogue to the country's officials. It is an old tactic to increase pressure on any country which is not obsequious before arrogant policies.

Resorting to various means, the Great Satan tries to make Iran accept the Middle East peace accords, but as Iran has said from the very beginning of the compromising process, the deal is doomed because it is unjust.

The U.S. has failed on many fronts. Through its interference in Afghanistan, the U.S. tried to dismiss the legal government and install a puppet government, but failed. The U.S. tried to pit Europe against Iran by imposing economic sanctions against Iran, but failed. By launching a smear campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the U.S. tries to provoke public opinion against Iran, but has failed.

Ayatollah Khamenei underlined that the Iranian nation will "eternally" fight the "Great Satan".

"Our nation will continue to fight the United States. The fight against the U.S. is a religious duty and our eternal slogan." The Leader stressed that the campaign does not intend to launch a military attack against the arrogant power, but to resist it.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Afghan Conference Ends With Call For National Reconciliation

TEHRAN — The 2-day regional conference on Afghanistan concluded here on Wednesday with participants expressing deep concern over the grave situation in Afghanistan.

During the two-day conference the representatives of nine regional countries and international bodies including the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the UN, OSCE and EU reviewed various aspects of the crisis and the recent developments in Afghanistan.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of the conference, all participants expressed regret over the loss of human lives in Afghanistan and destruction of the country's economic, social and cultural fabrics.

The statement further condemned the flagrant violation of human rights in Afghanistan, particularly the rights of women. It also called for an immediate halt to these violations within the framework of the UN Charter.

The statement emphasized the respect for Afghanistan's sovereignty, its national and territorial integrity and non-interference of foreign powers in country's internal affairs.

The participants further appealed to all warring factions in Afghanistan to silence their guns and turn to a negotiated settlement of the crisis through political means.

The conference also voiced its support to the recent UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, particularly its resolution No. 1,076.

The participants in the conference voiced their support for the praiseworthy efforts of the UN, particularly its special envoy to Afghanistan, and other international organizations such as the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to restore peace and stability to Afghanistan.

The participants announced their readiness for backing the efforts aimed at ending the civil war in Afghanistan, opening negotiations between the warring Afghan factions and installation of a broadly-based government in Afghanistan.

The conference backed the decision of the UN secretary general on holding an international conference with participation of

(Contd on Pg. 14)

KDP Official: Presence of Iran in Peace Talks Ensures Stability

SANANDAJ, Kurdestan Province — Deputy Prime Minister of the self-declared Iraqi Kurdish government, Nachirevan Barezani here Wednesday was quoted as saying that presence of Iran as the greatest regional power in northern Iraq's peace talks will secure political tranquility and stability.

The radio of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), monitored here Wednesday morning, said Barezani made the remark talking to Kurdish mass media.

An appropriate political solution to the Iraqi Kurdish problem will be found if Iran participates in the peace talks, he underlined. (Contd on Pg. 14)

Postal Network Delivers 2m Items Per Day

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN—Deputy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Postal Company said that at present the country's postal network delivers 2 million items per day and that it has the capacity to increase the amount to 1 billion per day.



NOROUZI

Elaborating on the importance of the postal system as one of the most efficient means of communication, Norouzi said that the postal system plays a pivotal role in the economic, social and cultural development of society.

He added that according to available figures, the country's gross national product (GNP) has a direct relationship with the postal system; the postal system and the economy strongly depend on each other. (Contd on Pg. 14)

Former Pakistan PM Vows to Inflict 'Final Blow' on Bhutto

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's main opposition parties will hold a giant rally in nearby Rawalpindi next month to inflict the "final blow to corrupt rulers," former Premier Nawaz Sharif said in a statement Wednesday.

Sharif urged Pakistanis to throng to Rawalpindi on November 12 for the "decisive round of struggle" to overthrow embattled Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The fiery leader, who served as prime minister between 1990 and 1993, said the rally would be "the last nail in the coffin of the government and would pave the way for fresh elections."

Sharif, who heads a multi-party opposition alliance, said opposition MPs have had also decided to resign en masse from Parliament to force President Farooq Ahmed Leghari to call new elections.

The businessman-turned-politician has accused the Bhutto government of corruption and economic mismanagement.

Bhutto, whose tenure ends in 1998, has rejected repeated opposition calls for snap polls, saying she would not relinquish power "under any pressure."

The decision to quit the federal and provincial assemblies was taken at a joint session of the opposition combine, grouping more than a dozen parties and religious organizations here Tuesday, party sources said.

The resignations will be submitted after obtaining "public approval" at the Rawalpindi rally, Sharif added.

The opposition offensive came two days after fierce clashes between police and activists of Pakistan's Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Party here killed one person and injured scores of others.

The activists were trying to stage a sit-in outside Parliament.

JI chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad has also announced an anti-gov-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Taleban Don't Have Any Identity

By Our Correspondent

NEW DELHI — The Taleban do not have any identity, Imam Seyed Abdullah Bukhari, the prayer leader of the Grand e (Jama Masjid) of Delhi said to the *Tehran Times* in his office which is attached to the ancient mosque.

Referring to foreign meddling in the war-torn Afghanistan, the Imam said, the U.S. is behind the Taleban.



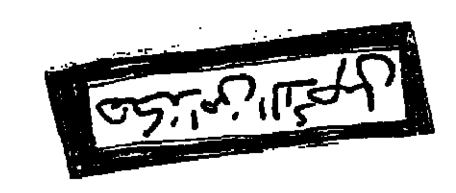
BUKHARI

Regrettably Afghanistan has been turned into an international laboratory, he said adding, the former Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and today the Americans do not allow the Afghans to decide about themselves.

Afghanistan has been transformed to battlefield where various armaments are put to test, the Imam lamented and added that the U.S. political games have undermined the security of Afghanistan.

The prevailing condition in Afghanistan and the continuation of

(Contd on Pg. 14)



هكذا من الأصل

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In the Name of Allah

Musa said to his people: Ask help from Allah and be patient; surely the land is Allah's; He causes such of His servants to inherit it as He pleases, and the end is for those who guard (against evil).

(HOLY QORAN)(7:128)

OPINION

Iran's Perpetual Struggle Against Foreign Domination

On the anniversary of the 4th of November (13th Aban, which, due to the leap year this year, falls on the 3rd of November), which commemorates the day the late Imam Khomeini was sent into exile, student day, and the national day of combatting imperialism, the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed a huge audience of high school and university students.

The speech and its reception by an enthusiastic audience refreshed memories of the events which brought about the Islamic Revolution.

The Islamic Republic came into existence as a consequence of a prolonged struggle and confrontation between the people and the former monarchy. In order to achieve freedom and independence, a nation resorted to religion. In addition to its internal struggles, the nation's objectives could not be attained without fighting foreign powers which supported the monarchy. Therefore, the struggle with oppressive countries remained inseparable from the struggle with the monarchy.

As the Leader appropriately pointed out, the slogans of the struggle with the oppressor must remain intact.

The Leader's speech stressed the importance of resorting to revolutionary slogans. It was emphasized that the confrontation with oppressive powers, primarily the U.S., should be intensified by improving science, technology, and academic research. Although there has been a constant concern about advancement in science, further advancement is necessary.

One of the tactics of the U.S. against Iran has been repeated allegations that Iran seeks nuclear power for military purposes. Moreover, Iran's attempts to boost its economy have been faced with biased propaganda by the U.S. and its close allies.

It was left to the young Iranian generation to pursue this confrontation with the U.S. by working in various scientific fields in order to increase Iran's self-sufficiency.

The young and educated generation should be aware of the methods applied by the U.S against Iran, namely, economic sanctions, scientific boycott, and cultural onslaught.

Today, based on solid pillars of its culture, history, faith, and resistance against impure Western thoughts, Iran continues its struggle against domination and its pursuit of self-sufficiency.

President Calls For Promotion of Martyrdom, Devotion Culture

TEHRAN -- President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here on Wednesday that holding the congress in commemoration of the martyred commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) should serve to promote the culture of sacrifice, martyrdom and the values of the Sacred Defense.



Speaking to the IRGC commanders, President Rafsanjani said the heroic acts shown by Iranian combatants during the Sacred Defense which was the outcome of the culture of Ashura should be presented in the artistic and cultural works to enable the unique values of the Sacred Defense era to be alive forever.

He said the facts and unsaid events relevant to the imposed war (1980-1988), and dreadful prisons and camps where Iranian priosners of war were held, are living documents which can be used by historians who have so far been unaware of such unique events.

The president told the IRGC commanders to let the freedom-loving individuals and thinkers of the world know the valuable work of the martyrs and asked them to make known the unsaid dimensions of the eight years of Sacred Defense.

Elsewhere in his speech, President Rafsanjani said the events in Ashura (10th day of Moharram ul-Haram on which Imam Hussein (AS), the Third Imam of the Holy Prophet's Infallible Household along with his 72 companions were martyred) and similar scenes from the eight-year Sacred Defense indicated that a community that braves martyrdom and is ready to sacrifice itself for the divine goals would not be defeated by the enemies.

He said, "What has led us to decisive victory in political and military arena will lay a pattern for the nations and future generations and will give a bitter lesson to the enemies of Iran and the Iranian people."

(IRNA)

RUHANI TO JORDANIAN ENVOY:

Peace Process With Zionists Turning Out to Be the Mirage It Was

TEHRAN — The Jordanian Ambassador to Tehran, Nuh Ali Salman al-Quzat, met with Vice-Speaker of Majlis, Hojjatoleslam Hassan Ruhani, here on Tuesday and called for active presence of Islamic Iran in his country.



AL-QUZAT

Al-Quzat also expressed hope that endorsement of transportation agreements between Iran and Jordan could lead to further broadening of relations between Tehran and Amman.

Ruhani, for his part, emphasized the need for expansion of cultural, trade and economic relations between the two countries, noting that the governments of Iran and Jordan should create the appropriate atmosphere in this regard.

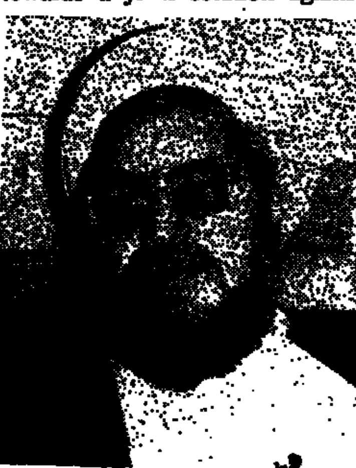
He stressed that in order to improve bilateral relations, the senior officials of the two countries should state their position within a reasonable framework.

Ruhani, who is also secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), added that the two Muslim countries of Iran and Jordan deserve closer relations in view of their glorious historical past. He called for serious steps to overcome problems in this regard.

Referring to the so-called peace process of the Middle East, Ruhani recalled that states neighboring occupied Palestine had attached big hopes to the Madrid conference, while today it has become evident for them that the moves were nothing but a mirage.

"What is happening today was quite clear for us from the very beginning but we left it to the public opinion of the Muslims and to the judgement of history," he said, adding that after a few years the stance of Islamic Iran (on the usurped land of Palestine) will become more and more clear as Muslim awareness increases."

Ruhani also head of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Majlis, went on to say, "We take this Muslim awareness as a good omen and we are confident that this development will lead us to a unified mode of thinking and towards a joint solution against the Zionist entity.



RUHANI

Towards the end of the meeting the Iranian official welcomed progress of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Arab countries within the framework of Islamic rules.

"Friendship with Islamic Iran will in no way be detrimental to Arab states while animosity towards Iran will not benefit them," he told the Jordanian envoy. (IRNA)

European Delegate to Afghan Confab Hails Iran's Peace Initiative

TEHRAN — Parliamentary Deputy of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Willey Weimer exchanged his views in a meeting here on Tuesday with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on the effective role of Islamic Iran in finding a peaceful end to regional and world crises.

Weimer here to attend the regional conference on Afghanistan expressed the European countries' concern over the critical situation in Afghanistan, and said the Iranian initiative in hosting the conference was not only a "positive and principle step" towards restoring peace in war-torn Afghanistan but has also drawn world attention toward the Afghan problem.

Referring to the negative effects of continuation of the Afghan crisis, he emphasized on the regional and international security.

Velayati said that Iran has hosted the conference in order to help the different Afghan political factions and ethnic groups reach peace and understanding in the interests of stability of their country.

(IRNA)

Kyrgyz FM's Message Submitted to Velayati

TEHRAN — Kyrgyz Foreign Minister in a message, handed over to Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati by Kyrgyz government's special representative for Afghanistan and Tajikistan affairs Erik Asan Aliyev here on Wednesday, expressed hope that regional conference on Afghanistan would bear positive outcome for Afghan crisis.

Calling the conference as "successful" in bringing about coordination and closeness of stances among regional states and international communities for helping end current crisis in Afghanistan, Aliyev said that convention of the session was a "necessary, important and fruitful" measure.

Aliyev, terming the stance taken by Iran and his country against Afghan issues as "very close," said that Kyrgyz officials believe that no group in Afghanistan could solely sovereign in the country.

He said that regional states should bring about permanent peace in Afghanistan in light of their cooperation with each other.

He added that Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev underlines cooperation between Tehran and Bishkek aimed to help stop Afghan crisis.

Aliyev informed Velayati of Bishkek's request from Tehran to assist it in providng necessary conditions for extension of humanitarian assistance to the Tajik-based Kyrgyz nationals. (IRNA)

Azeri FM: Habibi's Visit to Baku Highly Significant

BAKU — Azeri Foreign Minister Hassan Hassanov said here on Wednesday that the visit to Baku of First Vice President Hassan Habibi would play important role in expanding Tehran-Baku ties.

Talking to IRNA, Hassanov said that Habibi's visit would cause the deep political and economic ties between the two countries to gain momentum.

He added that Iran and Azerbaijan, as two "neighboring and brotherly" countries shared many potentialities for further expansion of ties and to this end exchange of visits by the two countries' officials would be necessary.

He said that talks between Iranian and Azeri officials over recent days showed that the two countries shared common views on many issues.

He added that since it attached special importance to its ties with Tehran, Baku was ready to sign any contract or letter of understanding proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Habibi, who is here on a four-day official visit, inspected Nezami Ganjavi Museum in Baku.

(Contd on Pg.15)

Tajik Deputy FM: Foreign Interference in Afghanistan Unacceptable

TEHRAN — Ranking political officials of the world who were attending the regional conference on Afghan problem here on Tuesday appreciated Iran's initiative to find peace in Afghanistan and warned against continued fighting between Afghan factions.

Tajikistan's First Deputy Foreign Minister, Arkin Rahmatollaev, said that his country was the most concerned in seeing peace in Afghanistan since continued fighting in that neighboring country could have adverse effects accross the common borders to the security of Tajikistan and other regional states.

Rahmatollaev, saying that foreign interference in Afghanistan was unacceptable, added that joint efforts were essential to start negotiations between the warring Afghan factions and the Tehran conference was an important step in that direction.

Kazakh First Deputy Foreign Minister, Gizatev, in his speech said that the Afghan fighting had brought the country's economy on the brink of collapse and

(Contd on Pg. 14)

France Favors Unilateral Action Against U.S. Sanctions

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - France is always insistent on the respect for international law and favors dialogue between oil producer and consumer countries, says the Director of the Oil and Gas Department at the French Ministry of Industry, Guy Arlette.

Speaking at an international oil conference in London Tuesday, he stepped up France's criticism of U.S. policy against Iran and Libya by saying that insufficient dialogue creates a destabilising effect on the oil market, IRNA reported.

The French official also revealed that France was one of the European Union countries that was studying unilateral action in addition to collective measures to confront U.S. extra-territorial laws aimed to limit investment in Iran and Libya's oil industries.

He told 200 delegates at the conference, organised by the *International Herald Tribune* and *Oil Daily*, that France has "always insisted on the importance of international law, which must be respected worldwide."

The EU agreed this week to support "blocking statues" against U.S. attempts to restrict European companies trading with Cuba, Iran and Libya. It has also launched a legal challenge against the U.S. extra-territorial laws at the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

France, whose oil firms have significant investments in Iran and Libya, has been at the forefront of a showdown that some analysts fear could lead to the biggest transatlantic trade wars in recent times.

In his address, Arlette said that the growth in world energy needs translate into a 30 percent increase close to dlrs 180 billion per year in investments required for hydrocarbons alone in the next 15 years.

These major investments were required for projects vital for the development of the oil industry and for the most part, were "not deferable to a later date" and needed cooperation between companies from producing and consuming countries, he argued.

Such relationships, the French official said, can only contribute to the establishment of a climate of mutual confidence within a framework of respect for sovereignty, inter-dependency and mutual benefit.

He said that it was dialogue that "remains the best way of working towards mutual, and therefore, lasting development," remembering the oil crises and counter-crises suffered between 1973 and 1986 that destabilised the world economy.

It should be ensured that international dialogue and the development of international law contribute to the climate of world-wide cooperation and energy security, which all were seeking to achieve, Arlette concluded.

Indian Minister Lauds Iran's Efforts

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Indian Agriculture Minister Chandra Mishra in his meeting with Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Tuesday appreciated Iran's initiative to find an end to the crisis in Afghanistan, IRNA reported.

Mishra, who is here to attend the conference on Afghanistan, described the 2-day meeting as indication of Iran's humanitarian efforts in the region.

"India believes that no outside power should be allowed to have its presence in Afghanistan," he added.

Mishra, referring to the traditional friendly ties between Iran and India, said that "in view of the scientific, technical and cultural potential of the two countries, Tehran and New Delhi could cooperate in countering the influence of domineering powers."

President Rafsanjani in response stressed on the importance of cooperation between the big countries of the region including Iran and India for resolving the Afghan issue.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran aware of the negative impacts of the present fighting and differences in Afghanistan on the life of regional peoples, is ready to adopt a more serious approach to the situation in Afghanistan."

Rafsanjani described the friendly relations between Iran and India as "a good model of regional cooperation" and said the ties should be banked upon for further promotion of bilateral relations.

Int'l Confab on Power Next Week

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The 11th International Conference on Electricity will be held in Tehran November 4-7.

21 countries will take part in the conference and some 80 articles will be presented by the experts from Iran and industrial countries such as Germany, England, Russia, Canada, America, Sweden, Switzerland and Croatia, IRNA reported.

The scientific program of the conference consists of system programming and analysis, power supply networks and safety, and power plants and control.

India, Russia Agree on Cooperation in Railways

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - India and Russia yesterday agreed to further intensify their cooperation in the area of railways.

The decision to this effect was taken in a meeting between the Russian Railways Minister Zaitsev and his Indian counterpart Ram Vilas Paswan in New Delhi, IRNA reported.

Both sides agreed on the need of greater container traffic between India and Russia, adding that the issue was to be examined by an expert group comprising the ministries of railways, finance, commerce, surface transport, external affairs on the Indian side and the ministries of railways and transport on the Russian side.

India and Russia have the two biggest railway networks in the world with India having 63,000 route kms and Russia 80,000 route kms of railway line.

The two countries' resolve to strengthen cooperation in railways assumes significance in view of the Russian offer to India for an alternative route, via Moscow and Iran, for its trade with Europe.

The proposal came under discussion yesterday during the meeting between the visiting Russian Railways Minister, A. Zaitsev, and the Indian Prime Minister, H.D. Deve Gowda.

Iran to Help Modernize Azeri Industries

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Officials of the electronic industry in the city of Ganjeh, the Azerbaijan Republic, in a meeting in Tuesday with visiting Iranian First Vice-President Hassan Habibi, requested help from the Islamic Republic to modernize its industrial units.

The director of the factory, presenting Habibi a brief report on the present and past activities of the industrial units, said that the technology in Azerbaijan was old and needs to be modernized on the basis of new technical knowhow which is available in Iran, IRNA reported.

Earlier in the day, the governor-general of the historical city of Ganjeh in his meeting with the Iranian delegation, called on Islamic Iran to help the city modernize its industrial units.

Habibi in response, expressed that Iranian industrial units are ready to assist the Azeri industry particularly in Ganjeh.

The Iranian first vice-president arrived in Baku on Monday for a 4-day visit at the head of a delegation comprising Iran's Minister of Cooperatives Gholamreza Shafeie, and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Morteza Mohammad-Khan as well as a number of senior officials.

Habibi is also scheduled to visit the neighboring Caucasus Republic of Georgia before returning home.

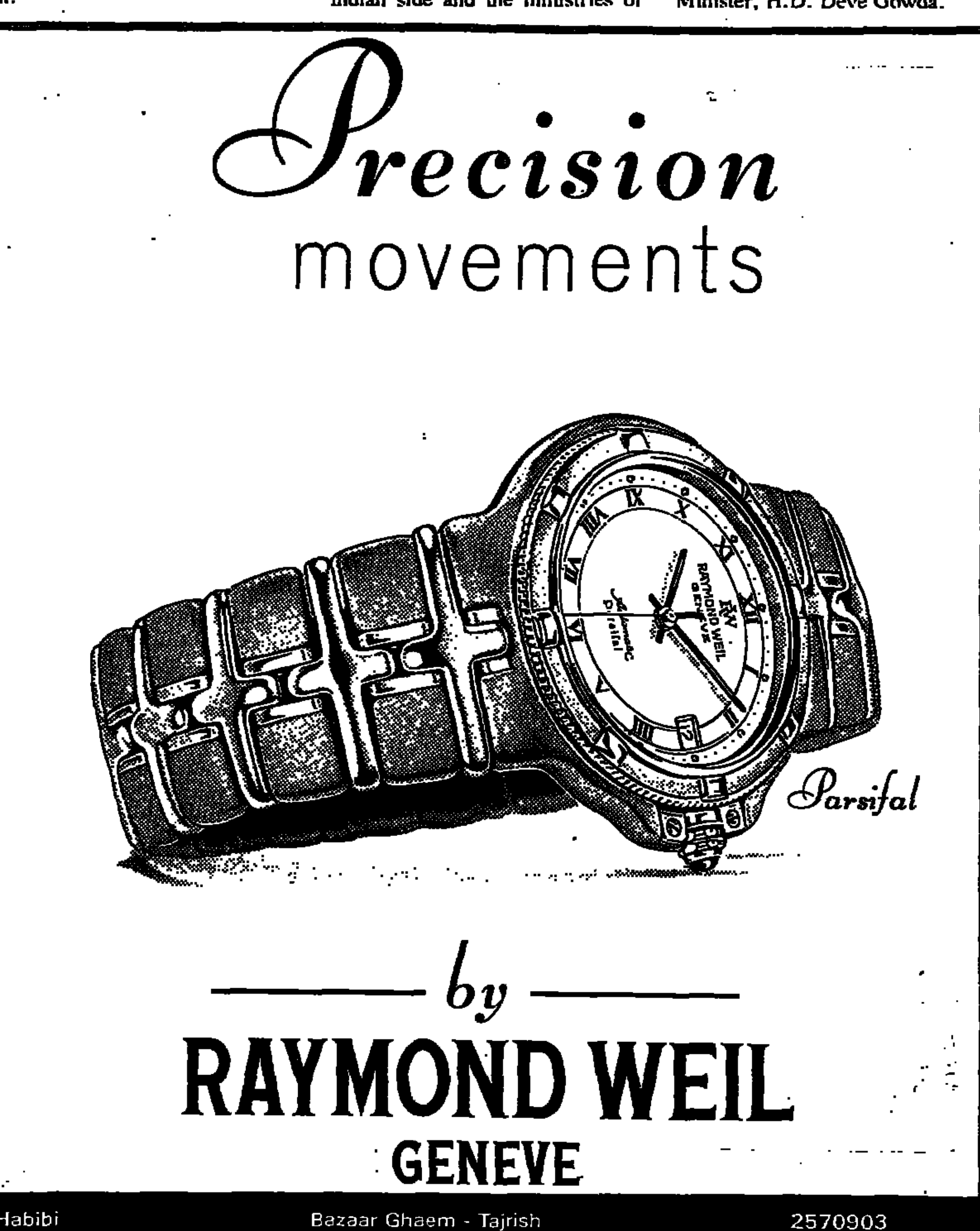
Tranche of IMF Credit to Russia May Be Given by End of 1996

Tehran Times Service

NEW YORK — A regular tranche of the 10.1 billion U.S. dollar credit, granted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to Russia, may be given by the end of this year, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said, IRNA reported.

He stressed that a monthly tranche of 340 million U.S. dollars would be extended after IMF experts estimated Russia's measures to improve the system of tax collection, as well as the figures showing whether tax revenues to the state budget grew.

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, the IMF managing director said Russia met the financial criteria for a credit recipient.



Thailand Aims to Become 3rd-Biggest Asian Auto Exporter

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Thai government is considering ways to make Thailand the third-largest exporter of motor vehicles in Asia following Japan and South Korea, the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* said yesterday, as quoted by an IRNA-Bernama dispatch.

In a dispatch from Bangkok, the business paper said the Thai government plans to put together measures to promote auto exports and nurture auto-related industries after a year-long study it will conduct jointly with private research institutes.

Foreign automakers are now beefing up production in Thailand.

Mitsubishi Motors Corp. of Japan plans to concentrate output of pickup trucks in Thailand which it sees as a major export base for global vehicle sales. It started exports of pickups this summer.

Honda Motor Co. of Japan has begun output of a low-cost Asia car, named City, as well as exports of auto parts to City car manufacturing factories in Indonesia and the Philippines, the paper said.

Among the "big three" carmakers of the United States, Ford Motor Co., together with Mazda Motor Corp. of Japan, plans to begin production of pickups in Thailand in 1998, while General Motors Corp. (GM) is set to launch output of cars in 1999.

Russian Economy Minister Optimistic About Ties With Holland

Tehran Times Servic

THE HAGUE — Prospects for the development of economic and financial relations between Russia and the Netherlands and practical ties between the economy ministries of the two countries were discussed here today by Russian Minister Yevgeni Yasin and his Dutch counterpart Hans Wijers, IRNA reported.

The two ministers met within the framework of Yasin's working visit to the Netherlands during which he also took part in a Russian-Dutch seminar on investments, which brought together more than 100 representatives of the banking and business communities of the two countries.

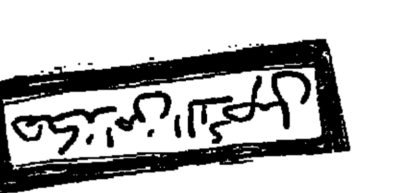
I view with optimism prospects for Dutch investments into the Russian national economy, the Russian minister said at the press conference, responding to a question from ITAR-TASS.

But for the process to develop successfully, painstaking day-to-day efforts are needed. The seminar here made its contribution to such efforts, Yasin said.

It is clear that time is needed for the Dutch companies to make decisions and start specific negotiations. I think that serious changes will occur in Russian-Dutch economic cooperation within a year, and this process will yield positive results earlier or later, the Russian minister stressed.

Yasin confirmed that during his meeting with Wijers, the two ministers discussed the possible purchase by Russia of the insolvent Dutch aircraft manufacturing company Fokker.

The negotiations on the purchase are going on, the minister said. He declined to disclose any further details of the negotiations at this point.



Supplication of Kumayl

PREFACE

The Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) (Peace be on him and his descendants) said:

- "Supplication is the weapon of the believer, the pillar of religion and the light of the heavens and the earth."

It is peculiar to the Shi'a that they attach great importance to supplications, and it is through this that they have distinguished themselves from others. The Shi'a scholars and religious preceptors have written many books on the excellence of these supplications and have indicated the correct method of their observance and performance. There are more than ten voluminous and smaller books which contain those supplications which have come down to us from the Holy Prophet (S) and his chosen descendants — the Holy Imams. They have laid great stress on the recitation of these supplications as is reflected by their following pronouncements:

- Supplication is the best form of worship and remembrance of Allah.
- Supplication is the most admirable deed on earth, offered to Allah.
- Supplication wards off disasters, unpleasant happenings, and evil forebodings.
- Supplication is a remedy for all maladies.

Supplication is a source of great comfort and solace is properly rendered. It gives us a chance to relieve our feelings by confiding in Allah, the Creator, and by addressing the One Who alone can do and undo things at will.

As a matter of fact those supplications which emanate from the Holy Prophet (S) and his chosen descendants can serve as guiding principles for the Muslims to emulate their good qualities. It is an institution of teaching which strengthens the belief and inculcates in man a firm determination and a spirit of self-sacrifice, brings him closer to the worship of Allah, gives him the feeling of exhilaration by reciting the supplications, reveals upon him the mystery of the worship of Allah, urges him to abide by his religious obligations, provides him an ample chance of coming into close proximity to Allah and prevents him from false innovations, corruption and wanton deeds.

In short, these supplications contain Islamic beliefs, superb morals and religious teachings and at the same time are the best source of evaluating philosophical views and investigating theological and moral values.

In Islam, the importance of supplications can be well judged from the verse of the Holy Qoran which says:

- *"Your Lord has said: Call to Me that I may answer your call. Surely those who disdain worshipping Me will enter Hell, disgraced."* (Surah al-Mu'min, 40:60)

Almighty Allah has likened supplications with His worship. Hence, Imam Zaynul 'Abidin says:

- "O Lord! You have given supplication the name of worship. You have attributed its omission to haughtiness. You have warned these (haughty) persons, that you will send them to Hell in abject disgrace."

It has been narrated that the commander of the faithful, the leader of the pious, Imam Ali was the embodiment of supplication, that is to say he dedicated himself entirely to supplications. True, such would be the one who is the foremost amongst the monotheists. Like his sermons, the supplications of Imam Ali are the rare example of his mastery over the art of eloquence in Arabic language. One of his famous supplications is the "Supplication of Kumayl" which he taught to Kumayl ibn Ziyad Nakha'i. This supplication envisages Divine teachings and solid foundations of religion in order to enable everyone to follow the right path for becoming a worthy Muslim.

One should never forget that supplication had become one of the merits of the Holy Prophet (S) and the daily routine of life of the pious leaders and devout followers of Islam. Hence the Muslims should adopt the recitation of supplications as a habit to become their second nature; and not only that, they should also perform them in a manner that has been prescribed to us by *Ahlul Bayt* of the Holy Prophet (S) with wrapt attention and correct pronunciation of words. To recite them without concentration and purity of heart would be a futile exercise of lips and tongue, for by this the reciter would not be able to bring any good to himself nor would it bring him closer to Allah. Neither he will he able to overcome his difficulties nor will he be able to get rid of his misfortunes. And above all his supplications will remain unanswered by Allah as Imam Ja'far Sadiq has said:

- "The Gracious Lord, the Almighty Allah never grants that supplication which comes out of one's heart in an indifferent manner. Thus when you offer your supplications, do it with undivided attention to Allah, and have an implicit faith that your wishes will be granted by Allah."

One of the blessings of "Supplication of Kumayl" is that by offering it one's personal needs are satisfied, prospects of livelihood are brightened, protection from enemy's evil intentions is ensured and sins are pardoned.

Thus, Muslims should offer this supplication on every night preceding Friday *(Laylatul Jumu'ah)* individually or in congregation after Isha' prayers.

Note: The traditions mentioned in this preface are quoted from *al-Kafi*, *Kitabud Du'a* as published by Islamic Seminary Publications. The Supplication of Kumayl is also published by the same publications. The daily *Tehran Times* prints a part of supplication on Thursdays. The first part will appear next Thursday.

Swift's "Last Orders" Wins Britain's Top Book Prize

LONDON — British author Graham Swift has won the 1996 Booker Prize, Britain's top book prize, for his comic novel *"Last Orders,"* it was announced Tuesday.

Swift, 47, from south London, pocketed a cheque for 20,000 pounds ($30,000) at the awards ceremony in London.

"Last Orders" tells the story of four friends who meet to carry out the dying wish of their friend Jack that his ashes be scattered into the sea at Margate, southern England.

The novel skips through time and space and delves into the forces which have shaped each character.

Swift's victory represents the fourth disappointment for popular British writer Beryl Bainbridge, who had been fancied to win with *"Every Man for Himself,"* a book about the 1912 titanic disaster.

Bainbridge, 61, from Camden, north London, has been nominated four times, twice in the 70s, in 1991 and this year.

The other shortlisted books were: *"Reading in the Dark"* by Irish writer Seamus Deane, *"The Orchard on Fire"* by Shena Mackay, *"A Fine Balance"* by Rohinton Mistry, and *"Alias Grace"* by Margaret Atwood.

Swift began writing in his early twenties but had to supplement his income by teaching English in south London colleges.

His breakthrough came in 1984 with the novel *"Waterland,"* which was later made into a successful film.

The success of *"Waterland,"* shortlisted for the 1983 Booker Prize, meant that Swift could turn to writing full time. (AFP)

African Ancient "Xylophone" Presented in Public for First Time

PARIS — A 13th century African musical instrument akin to the xylophone, which has never before left the village in Guinea where it is jealously preserved, will be shown here for the first time on Tuesday, UNESCO announced.

A UNESCO communique said it was the first time the Sosso-Bala had been removed from the village of Niagassola in Guinea where it is the object of a cult by African traditional musicians.

Guinean Minister of Culture and Communication Michel Kamano, UNESCO's deputy director-general for Africa Henri Lopes and African historian Namankoumba Kouyate will take part in the presentation ceremony.

The event is a tribute to the former president of Senegal, Leopold Sedar Senghor who is 90 this year.

The Sosso-Bala is a balaphone made of 20 planks of wood of decreasing length laid across a bamboo frame. Each of the 20 planks is fitted with a calabash to enhance the sound.

In Guinea, only the patriarch charged with guarding the precious instrument is allowed to play it. (AFP)

Anybody Out There? Rush Tests for Echo

NEW YORK — In typically complex fashion, the title and corresponding song of the new album by the intellectual Canadian trio rush has a dual meaning.

On the surface, the song "Test for Echo" is a snide critique of the American justice system, which often turns criminals into media darlings. But it's also a comment on human nature.

"It's about the numbing process that happens when we are exposed to great tragedies and then we're exposed to moments of hilarity," singer-bassist Geddy Lee said in an interview at a New Hork hotel. "I feel that that's the condition of contemporary man now — when we read the paper or when we watch TV, we're not sure if we're supposed to laugh."

The concept of the echo is especially crucial in the context of the band itself. Lee, guitarist Alex Lifeson and drummer Neil Peart act as each other's system of checks and balances.

"I tend to be Alex's echo when it's his turn to do the guitar parts," he said. "Neil has a tendency to be my echo when it comes to bass parts. And Alex seems to be Neil's echo when it comes to him working out his drum parts and his drum sound. We all trade off producing each other."

There's a special bond between Lee and Peart, who writes all the band's lyrics.

"I have to be very connected with what he wants to say and agreeable to what he wants to say and be able to sing that sentiment with sincerity," Lee said. "Neil is an incredibly professional writer ... he's very happy to take my input as an objective editor." (AP)





THEATER

Irandokht: A Glance at a Historical Episode

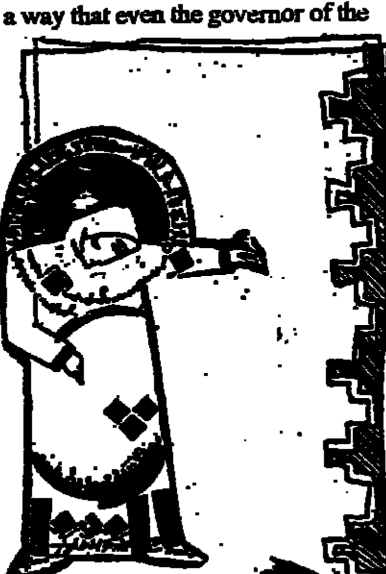
Tehran Times Service

Synopsis:

During the Mongolian assault to Iran, an Iranian woman namely Hosnieh, bamboozles an enemy army commander in Neishaboor, thus brings about failure for the army. However, in the zenith of purity and courage and at the final stage, she kisses the dust, herself.

The melodrama of *Irandokht* is adopted from the history of Iran, centered on the personal understanding of the playwright.

The play pictures respectable citizenship of Iranians and Iran in a way that even the governor of the city, who is a just man, keeps pace with the public and Hosnieh's courage to overthrow the Mongols.



This ideal glimpse is welcome as far as Samimi Frad's melodrama is concerned, but regarding historical aspects, and in a dramatic structure — i.e. 1-D glance at the characters — it proves to be unrealistic.

The only well-elaborated character is the Mongolian army commander who is a composite of brutality (due to his duty) and love and passion (his inner desire). The other characters are nothing but walking shadows on the stage, affecting less the whole drama. One could delete all these characters, and have the melodrama rolled out by just two main characters.

The stage set was designed with outstanding care. Islamic and Iranian architecture, best color selection for the stage, best location of the stage set were among the elements affecting visual attractions.

The characters' outfit was the other priority of the work which, due to the historical setting of the play, connected the theater goers with the work.

Despite a weak scenario and not-so-professional casts, and due to the high number of characters as well as director's *mise en scene*, *Irandokht* was a kind of work that required much warm practice and much care; it was clear that the group worked hard to bring the play on stage.

Artwork Stolen From Jews Goes Under Hammer in Vienna

VIENNA — Record prices were set Tuesday at an unprecedented auction of some 8,000 valuable works of art, stolen from Austrian Jews by the Nazis during World War II, which opened in Vienna on Tuesday.

Christie's Auction House has already surpassed expectations, raising 53.6 million schillings ($5.3 million) on Tuesday alone, well over the 37 million schillings forecast for the entire two-day sale, the first involving "Heirless Art."

Christie's is holding the auction free of charge, with 12 percent of the proceeds to be given to members of Austrian anti-Nazi resistance groups during World War II and the remainder to go to the Austrian Federation of Jewish Communities.

Some 500 people attended the auction at the Austrian Museum of Applied Arts on Tuesday, and some 200 people placed bids by phone.

The 17th-century paintings by Abraham Mignon went for 11.5 million schillings and 5.5 million schillings (1.1 million and 550,000 dollars).

A masterpiece virgin and child by the 15th-century Italian painter Pietro di Francesco Degli Orioli, was sold for three million schillings ($300,000), more than twice the reserve price of 1.2 million schillings.

Israel's Yad Vashem holocaust museum purchased two paintings, including "Portrait of a Young Man" by Fra Galgario of the 18th century.

One work, by the 17th-century painter Frans Snyders, was withdrawn moments before the auction opened Tuesday because it was claimed by a rightful heir. Christie's had published 20,000 copies of the catalogue, which was sold throughout the world.

Tuesday's lots included paintings by old masters of the 14th to 18th centuries, followed by 19th and 20th century paintings.

On Wednesday Christie's will auction furniture, carpets, sculptures and antiques, including a third century B.C. marble bust of Alexander the Great worth between 500,000 and 800,000 schillings ($50,000 to 80,000).

The "Mauerbach Treasures," as the Austrian press has dubbed the collection, were plundered from Jews by the Nazis during Germany's 1938-1945 occupation of Austria.

The works and objects of art were stored in a monastery in Mauerbach, near Vienna, after the allies found them in a salt mine in central Austria where the Nazis had hidden them.

The allies, who administered Austria until 1955, charged the Austrian government with returning the works to their owners or their rightful heirs. (AFP)

Barenboim Conducts "Dance of Cranes" on Berlin Square

BERLIN — Wearing a hard hat and overcoat, Daniel Barenboim set construction cranes in motion to the sounds of a Beethoven symphony Saturday to celebrate a stage in Berlin's urban revival.

The *"Dance of the Cranes"* on Potsdamer Platz Square, Europe's biggest construction site, marked the completion of the shell of a high-rise built for Daimler-Benz by Italian architect Renzo Piano.

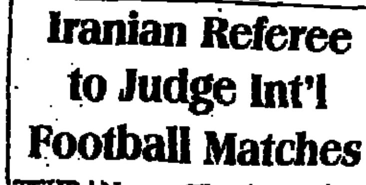
Glinting in the sun, 19 towering cranes slowly swung back and forth to a taped excerpt from Ludwig van Beethoven's ninth symphony as Barenboim conducted with red and blue signaling flags from an elevated platform.

Piano's 22-story building is the centerpiece of a Daimler-Benz complex begun two years ago in an area once disfigured by the Berlin Wall.

The complex will house the concern's Debis Financial Services Unit and is to open in 1998.

About 2,000 guests, including German Construction Minister Klaus Toepfer and Berlin Mayor Eberhard attended the show.

Piano, whose other designs include the Centre Pompidou in Paris, said "a black hole at the center of Berlin" was finally being filled with life again. (AP)



Iranian Referee to Judge Int'l Football Matches

TEHRAN — The international soccer federation (FIFA) invited Iranian indoor soccer referee Sadreddin Musavi to judge the final matches of the international indoor competitions to start in Spain on November 24.

The Iranian soccer federation added that the Iranian team is to play against Cuba, Brazil and Belgium.

(IRNA)

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(IRNA)



ROME, Italy (October 29): German team Karlruher SC player Thomas Haessler's (L) shot is stopped with the hand by AS Rome's Fabio Statio (R) during their UEFA Cup 2nd round, 2nd leg match in Rome's Olympic Stadium. Although Rome won the match by 2-1 goals, the German team advanced for the next round after winning 4-2 on aggregate.

(AFP PHOTO)

Bosnia Lose to Croatia But Sport Is Winner

BOLOGNA — A cavernously empty stadium and driving rain provided the backdrop for one of the most emotionally charged matches in World Cup Soccer history on Tuesday as Bosnia made their "home" debut against Croatia.

Bosnia lost 4-1 but soccer was the clear winner as both teams played sportingly and rival fans joined in fair play.

A small knot of drenched Bosnians, some of whom had travelled overland by bus from their formerly beseiged capital Sarejevo for the match, joined a couple of hundred Croat supporters for the European group one clash.

It didn't matter that Soccer No-Hopers San Marino, who sometimes also play in Bologna's Renato Dall'ara Stadium, could undoubtedly muster larger crowds.

It didn't matter that the locals, whose city offered to stage the match after Sarajevo's Kosevo Stadium was ruled out by world soccer body FIFA, decided to stay dry at home.

All that really mattered to those watching the muddy goings-on was that the match was happening at all.

Bosnian Moslems and ethnic croats backed by Croatia fought in a 10-month war for territory during the Bosnian war and are now joined in a tenuous federation.

"This is such a great emotion," said Bosnian sports journalist Jasmin Mrzljak as he stood and surveyed the rows of empty seats glistening under a steady sheet of rain.

He was painfully aware of the irony that the seats would have been filled at home after years of the Sarajevo Stadium being deserted due to Serb shelling of the city.

"In some parts of Bosnia, in cities such as Mostar, the Croats and Bosnians fought each other in the war and for these people it is a very emotional match," he said.

Bozana Bakrac, who organised the party of bosnian supporters from Sarajevo, said the bus had taken 22 hours and would return immediately to Bosnia after the match.

"Finally we are here," she said, tears in her eyes.

"After four years it's incredible to escape a nightmare. It's difficult to describe my feelings.

"Maybe we will lose but it doesn't matter. We have a national team now, we are a nation," said Kahirlal, who used to spend time at Sarajevo's soccer stadium before the war retrieving balls from the sidelines during matches.

Police kept a close eye on those fans, mostly Croatian, who milled around drinking before the match.

Despite outward signs of friendship in the bars near the stadium, the political tensions were never far away.

"Of course we'll win," said Juri, a Croatian electrician from Split. "Bosnia is now really a nation."

However, the players steered well clear of politics.

Asked who he thought the citizens of Mostar would have been supporting, Milan's Croatian striker Zvonimir Boban replied: "What importance does it have?...Everyone wants common sense. We all want peace. People who want to see sport will be happy to see a match like this."

(Reuter)

Jingoistic Euro 96 Headlines Condemned

LONDON — Jingoistic headlines about the German football team during the summer's European football championships were condemned by the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) on Wednesday.

The PCC received 300 complaints from the public, in particular about articles in the *Daily Mirror, Daily Star* and *Sun Tabloid* newspapers.

Members agreed that headlines including "Achtung Surrender — for You Fritz ze European Championship Is Over" in the *Daily Mirror*, "Let's Blitz Fritz" in *The Sun* and "Herr We Go — Bring On the Krauts" in the *Daily Star* had "Significantly Misjudged the Public Mood."

But they said they reflected inevitable partisan support among England football fans and were "clearly not intended to incite prejudice directed at specific individuals on the grounds of their race."

Neither the German government nor the German team had complained, they noted.

The *Daily Mirror* pointed out it had apologised to readers for any offence caused and *The Sun,D and Daily Star* said the jokes were "good-natured."

Members of the PCC agreed that there was no breach of the PCC's code on discrimination and made no adjudication on particular complaints, although they did ask whether any changes to the code would be desirable. (AFP)

Barcelona Goalkeeper Signs For American Football Team

BARCELONA — Barcelona second reserve goalkeeper Mariano Angoy has moved across the city, switched sports and joined American football club Barcelona Dragons.

Angoy, who will play as goalkicker for the Dragons, said he has been supported in his decision by his father-in-law, former Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff.

"I wanted to live in Barcelona and it was a good opportunity to continue here," said Angoy, whose chances of playing regularly disappeared with the arrival at the NOU camp stadium of Portuguese international 'keeper Vitor Baia. (Reuter)

Indian Cricket Chief Chokes on Aussies' pollution 'Excuse'

NEW DELHI — Indian cricket officials Wednesday ridiculed reports that Australia did not want to play in New Delhi

again because of the pollution, arguing it was merely an excuse for their test defeat.

"It's a case of polluted minds rather than pollution," said

Sunil Dev, chief organizer of the one-off test in the Indian capital earlier this month which Australia lost in under four days.

"They never mentioned the pollution during the test match. In fact, the Australians on their own changed their itinerary to stay back in New Delhi during breaks in the current one-day series.

"I concede Delhi is a very polluted city, but the national stadium, where the Australians practiced, and the Kotla, the test venue, are exceptions.

Mark Taylor's team changed their original travel plans to make Delhi their base during the ongoing triangular one-day series against South Africa and India, which followed the one-off test.

The Australians, who play South Africa in Guwahati on Friday, will touch Delhi again on Saturday on their way to Chandigarh for the last league fixture against India on Sunday.

This is not the first time a touring team had complained about the pollution in India.

Graham Gooch's Englishmen complained about "smog" during their 3-0 test rout in 1993 when the matches were played in Calcutta, Madras and Bombay.

(AFP)

S. Korean Football Results

SEOUL — Semi-final results of the 30th Asian Youth Final Championship:

China 5 (Wang Peng 7, Wang Peng 48, Tian Ye 53, Tao Peng 61.

Tian Ye 74) United Arab Emirates 1 (Ambul Salam Jumma 35)

South Korea 1 (Yang Hyun-Jung 79) Japan 0

(AFP)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

Skills of Kung Fu

What Is Kung Fu?



(Part 12)

Being aware of these events, the Shaolin forces defeated the first Mongolian aggressive group. But they could rest only for a short time since the emperor immediately sent there a great number of his men. They devastated the temple and killed all but five people who were later known as 'Five Ancestors'. They completely knew the mysteries of their arts and then immigrated to the south. They were the founders of Tripartite Society and their slogan meant the downfall of Chee-Ing and Ming's return which also became the slogan for his proponents throughout China.

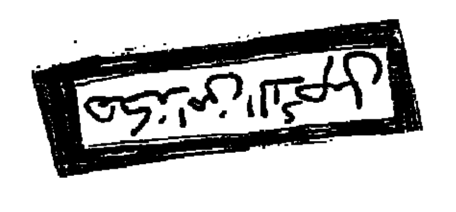
It is believed that both temples were again burnt by the third Mongolian emperor but Chee-Ing Lung reconstructed them in late 8th century. Undoubtedly, the mass immigration of secluded individuals of kung fu as well as priests to the safer areas of southern region which for the first time brought about Shaolin's domination and appearance of other kung fu skills and in this way the people were stimulated to attack the Mongolians. Facing much difficulties, the kung fu masters gradually revealed most of unidentified methods and principles. Many people were trained in some areas.

For instance, a school master from a village named 'Hwang-Hesi Ochwan' started a rebellion which took the Mongolians 14 years to overcome. During 3 years after the official announcement of revolution in 1850, Hwang conquered the town of Nanking and also the other Ming's organizations such as Tripartite Organization sieged the towns of Shanghai, Amooy and Kantoon. Introducing himself as the new emperor and considering the fact that he formed foreign troops under General Gordon leading the Mongolian to the victory over a revolution known as Typing Revolution, Hwang's power can be evaluated. Hwang trained his men lancing, fencing and kung fu. When he was in power, he could claim to have half of China under control. Later, he lost 20,000 Mongolians as well as hundreds square miles of lands. Since Hwang-Hesi Ochwan's army was defeated by 'Ever-Victor Army' under Briton Gordon and ruler of Chee-Ing, Lee Hwang-Chang in



1864, he committed suicide. When the Typing Revolution faced failure, Ming's proponents accepted while the Westerners were in China, the wicked Mongolian dynasty was less afraid of civil war and rebellion. Although toppling Chee-Ing seemed necessary but the head should have been changed and also the Berber Westerners should have been deported.

After the death of Kwaylouz, the Round Eye (White Devil), the Mongolian ruler was automatically overthrown. The treacherous German, English, French, American and Japanese had to return to the remotest areas and real estates which they ceded to the crazy emperor or usurped during the Opium Wars. The advantages of business and Western religions should have been banned forever in China. In an atmosphere of revenge and fear of strangers, the most famous army composed of kung fu warriors was formed in history. The harmonious fists originated from Ai-Hou Chwan rule which were known as boxing, appeared for the first time in Shentang region during the spring of 1896. Peter Fleming in his book, The Siege of Peking, explains about biased boxing and some beliefs which have relative effects on supernatural and legendary powers of Samoei. According to Fleming, this invaluable gift along with semidivine and legendary spirits were granted to the boxers whom they call as wizards.



President: Iran-Turkmenistan Relations Model of Good-Neighborly Ties



TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in his meeting with Turkmen Foreign Minister Boris Sheikhmoradov here on Tuesday, described Iran-Turkmenistan relations as "a model of good- neighborly ties."

Sheikhmoradov, who is here to attend the conference on Afghanistan, submitted Hojjatoleslam Rafsanjani a written message from Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov, and appreciated Iran's firm support for the independence of his country.

"Iran's support has strengthened the independence of the Republic of Turkmenistan," he added.

Sheikhmoradov described Iran's efforts to find a solution to the Afghan crisis as "important" and "praiseworthy" and said that "Ashkhabad believes in a political solution for ending the current crisis in Afghanistan and welcomes and supports any Iranian effort in this regard."

Both Iran and Turkmenistan share borders with war-torn Afghanistan. The other countries bordering Afghanistan are Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and China.

The Turkmen foreign minister briefed President Rafsanjani on President Niyazov's recent talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Caspian Sea issues.

He said that Russia and Turkmenistan in view of the importance of cooperation among Caspian Sea states have high regards for Iran's efforts in this regard, and believe that a meeting of foreign ministers and experts of littoral states would be quite beneficial.

The Turkmen official also requested Iran's cooperation and participation in exploitation of oil and natural gas from Turkmenistan's off-shore wells in the hydrocarbon-rich Caspian, the world's largest inland sea.

The oblong Caspian which occupies an area of the size of Japan is also rich in marine life especially the prized caviar which is extracted from the sturgeon fish. The sea is hemmed in by Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan.

Rafsanjani thanking for Niyazov's message, said Iran is keen on further promotion of bilateral ties with Turkmenistan and stressed the continuation of stability and security on the two countries' borders.

He felicitated the Turkmen people on their national day and said the government and people of Iran send their warm greetings to Turkmenistan. (IRNA)

Iraq Blasts U.S. Interference in Kurdish Areas

BAGHDAD — Iraq on Wednesday blasted U.S. interference in the country's north as rival Iraqi Kurdish factions began U.S.-brokered peace negotiations in Ankara.

"The U.S. interference in northern Iraq amounts to flagrant scorn for international law," the official *Ath-Thawra* newspaper said.

"America gave itself the right to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs in an arbitrary and irresponsible way by claiming it had received a mandate from the international community," the ruling Baath Party daily said.

"In fact, the United States is acting on its own and in flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and international law," it said. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 2)

TAJIK...

destabilized the situation to such an extent that economic and trade cooperation among countries in the region had been badly affected.

He said the conference would allow the participants to coordinate their viewpoints in order to initiate joint efforts to solve the Afghan problem through peaceful means. Kazakhstan, he added, would support the meeting on Afghanistan due to be held under the United Nations auspices.

He also called on foreign powers to cease medling in Afghanistan and stop sending arms to warring factions.

Russian Ambassador to Tehran, Sergei Tartiakov, said the only way to settle the conflict was a political solution on the basis of respect for Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity which could be reached through a national reconciliation among all Afghan political parties and ethnic groups.

Chinese Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, who is representing Beijing at the conference, called on Afghan factions to set aside their ethnic and religious differences and form a broadbased government acceptable to all involved parties.

He also called on Afghanistan and other involved countries to consider the UN resolutions approved in October 1996 on this issue. (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

IRAN'S...

The Leader further called on Iranian youth and intellectuals to study practical ways of a campaign against the arrogant power which tries to prevent advancement in science and technology from entering Iran.

Petition for Minister's Impeachment Formally Read in Majlis

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN – The petition for impeaching the Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati, which had earlier been signed by some 12 Majlis deputies and submitted to the Majlis presidential board, was officially read at the Majlis open session yesterday by the secretary of the session Hassan Ghafouri-Fard.

The petition, addressed to Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, said that, according to Article 89 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic and Clauses 150 and 151 of the Iranian Parliament's internal code, the signatories request the interior minister's impeachment.

Stating the reasons for the impeachment, the Majlis deputies stressed that the minister had failed to put into effect the law on formation of councils, especially in the villages. They also noted that he had paid some government funds into his personal account with Melli Bank, branch at the Interior Ministry, and had made payments contrary to the regulations to various individuals through this account.

The representatives, in their impeachment request, further pointed out that Besharati had given unusual promotions to some personnel of the Law Enforcement Forces who escort him around and, also, that he had contravened the financial and economic rules by giving gold coins to some individuals.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

RUSSIA...

Primakov said that Moscow, co-sponsor along with Washington of the peace process launched at the Madrid Conference in 1991, "welcomes any reactivation of a European role."

"This shows that we are moving toward a world" where no single power is dominant, he said, referring to the United States.

Primakov said that Russia would "maintain its policy of insisting on the importance of adhering to the basic principles" of the peace process and "the agreements concluded."

The Russian foreign minister, who arrived the same day from Beirut, was to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak later Wednesday in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

It was "impossible to come to a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East without Egypt's contribution," he said.

Mussa said that Primakov's tour of the region, which began Monday in Damascus, "comes at a time when every effort must be made to put the peace process back on track, in line with the agreed-on principles, especially the exchange of land (by Israel) for peace."

Egypt has called for Russia, largely overshadowed by the United States since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, to reassume its responsibilities as co-sponsor.

Mussa confirmed "Egypt's interest in maintaining Russia's role" in the peace process, which the election in May of conservative Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stalled. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ISRAEL...

General Uzi Dayan, commander of Israel's central military region, told journalists that his forces were carrying out "routine maneuvers" involving artillery, tanks, helicopters and warplanes.

Teshrin also denounced Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies, saying he wants to "cancel the peace process and create an atmosphere for an attack on Syria with the military maneuvers whose objective is to provoke Syria and increase the tension."

"Israel wants to destroy the peace process and weaken the Arabs," *Teshrin* said.

Al-Baath, the official newspaper of the Syrian ruling party by the same name, criticized "the threatening and bellicose language of Netanyahu" and said that the Israeli maneuvers are the fifth in six months.

"Syria is ready for anything," it added.

Syria on Tuesday denied Israeli charges that it has massed troops on the Golan and was preparing for war with Israel but urged Arab states to be ready for a possible attack by the Zionist state.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara said, "the claims of the Israeli Prime Minister (Benjamin Netanyahu) that Syria is increasing tension, massing troops and preparing to mount a surprise attack are completely unfounded."

Netanyahu issued a thinly veiled warning to Syria on Sunday over its reported military maneuvers, saying: "It should be clear ... that we observe everything that goes on and there is no question here of a possible surprise."

Syria is demanding that any peace deal with Israel must include the return of the Golan, while Netanyahu has insisted Israel will never give up the strategic plateau. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

KDP...

The whole world is aware of the Islamic Republic's power and role in the region's political stability, he stated, adding, "We prefer that Iran plays an active role in the peace talks."

In the past few years, Iran has proved that it is a key power in the region's political equation, he said.

Creation of a broad-based government and guaranteeing stability of KDP position in northern Iraq are main demands of the KDP, Barezani said.

The Kurdistan crisis is a political issue demanding a political solution, he noted.

He further said that the U.S. objective in the recent summit of the rival Kurdish factions was to declare cease-fire and to stop the fighting in northern Iraq.

In their recent visit to Washington the KDP leaders called for clarification of the U.S. policies towards the Kurds of northern Iraq. The Americans on the contrary were not inclined to discuss the matter, Barezani said, adding with the approaching presidential elections in the United States, the U.S. administration merely wants to end the conflict in northern Iraq.

Regional political observers believe that the halt in bloody clashes in northern Iraq is temporary and fighting will break out once the U.S. presidential elections are over.

The observers are also of the opinion that by demanding a two-week delay in the peace talks, Masoud Barezani is buying time to secure more victories and occupy strategic regions.

The rival Kurdish parties in northern Iraq are fortifying their positions in the frontlines particularly in Koy-e Sanjaq and in the strategic city of Raniyeh. (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

AFGHAN...

the countries having influence on Afghan factions to work out a political solution to the Afghan crisis.

The conference called on all countries of the world and the UN organizations to dispatch as much humanitarian assistance as they can to the Afghan refugees and civilians.

The conference decided to take appropriate measures to follow up the issue at regional level and under supervision of the UN to find out peaceful means to end the civil war in Afghanistan through exchange of views with the Afghan factions, the UN and the countries concerned.

The conference also voiced its readiness to hold another session to review the latest developments in Afghanistan, to assess the extent of success in implementing the provisions of this statement and to explore ways of executing the decisions to be taken by the forthcoming UN-sponsored international conference on Afghanistan.

The participants appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran for successfully holding the conference. (IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

POSTAL...

Any development in the country's postal system is an indication of its development in other fields. He said that an increase in per capita postal traffic indicates that it has taken key steps towards development.

He said that the per capita postal traffic in 1978 amounted to two items per day; it increased to 3.5 by the beginning of the First-Five Year Development Plan.

He affirmed that by the end of 1995, the per capita mail increased to 12 items, adding that such growth indicates remarkable success in economics.

As for the establishment of the postal bank, Norouzi underlined that its bill had been ratified by both the executive and the legislative branches of government, and that it had been officially inaugurated on July 15, 1996.

He expressed hope that the Iranian Postal Bank Company would be able to compete with similar companies in developed countries in the near future.

He further termed 'cheque-post' as one of the main achievements of the Postal Company in recent years, saying that it would save customers time.

The postal bank will cover all financial activities of the Postal Company and it will be affiliated to the Ministry of Post, Telephone and Telegraph (PTT).

Recalling other services offered by the Postal Company, Norouzi referred to the nationwide health insurance plan which was put into operation by the cooperation of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education.

The Postal Company and the Medical Services Organization signed a contract in 1995, according to which the Postal Company would cooperate with the Medical Services Organization in issuing some 22 million medical insurance contracts in rural areas in 1995.

Elaborating on the performance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Postal Company, Norouzi said that, in 1978, the number of post offices reached 2,429; in 1988, 3,862; and currently the number of post offices are 11,810. This shows a growth of 386 percent since 1978.

He said that, in 1978, each post office provided service to 15,349 persons; in 1988, to 13,691 persons; and currently, to 5,292. He affirmed that the average standard for developing countries is 4,000 persons served per a post office.

During the First and Second Five-Year Development Plans, key measures have been taken to lead the country's postal system to international standards.

The total number of annual items delivered amounted to 75 million in 1978; 212 million in 1988; and 738 million by the end of 1995.

The average time spent for delivering items was 95 hours in 1978; 50 hours in 1988; and 37 hours by the end 1995.

He added that the presence of professional postal experts with higher educational degrees, mechanizing the post offices and using postal codes for different parts of the city have enabled the company to achieve remarkable success in recent years.

During the past two years, the Postal Company has mechanized some 260 post offices, and it will mechanize some 600 post offices by the end of the next Iranian calendar year (1376). It is predicted that 1,646 post offices will be mechanized by the end of the Second Five-Year Development Plan.

As for the private sector's contribution in providing postal services, Norouzi remarked that at present some 672 private civil postal agencies are operating in the country under the supervision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Postal Company.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

FORMER...

ernment rally led by women in front of Parliament on November 11 to mount pressure on Bhutto, whose husband Industry Minister Asif Zardari is also facing corruption charges. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

TALEBAN...

civil war have precarious repercussions for its neighbors and India, he added.

The Taleban are an unknown group who do not have any identity, he said adding, we support the Rabbani government and want him to come back to power.

Taleban fundamentalist militia, which sprang up two years ago, has already seized control of two-thirds of the country and has vowed to impose its ultra-strict version of law over Afghanistan's territory.

As fighting raged at frontlines north of Kabul between Taleban and Masood's forces, hundreds of people took to the roads in search of safety.

Taskhiri Elaborates on Women's Week

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN—Head of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations, Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, said on Wednesday that the ceremonies of the auspicious birth anniversary of Hazrat-e Fatemeh (SA), coinciding with the onset of Women's Week, will be held in more than eighty locations on earth.

Speaking at a press conference on the eve of the birth anniversary of Hazrat-e Fatemeh (SA), Taskhiri underlined that key measures have been taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran's cultural attaches abroad for organizing the ceremonies of this auspicious occasion.

He said further that the ceremonies comprise holding various seminars; photo, miniature, and book exhibitions; meeting with prominent political and cultural figures; special publications, and several press conferences.

Taskhiri said that an international seminar on women is to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in the near future, and several prominent women from different countries will participate in this seminar.

He added that more women-related regional conferences will be held in Britain, Pakistan, Kenya, Bosnia, Syria and Croatia in the near future.

Taskhiri underlined that the Fifth International Seminar on Foreign Muslim Women residing in Iran will be held on November 4 in Tehran.

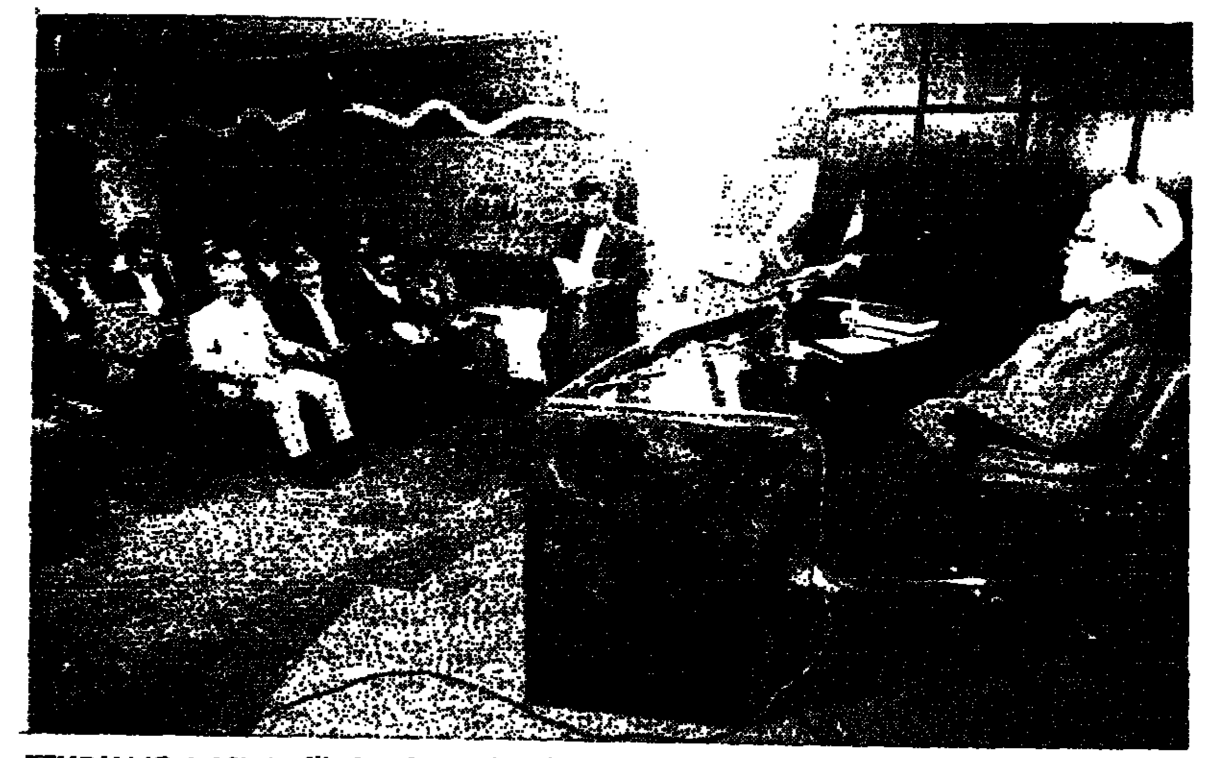
About 250 non-Iranian Muslim women and several cultural and scientific figures will attend the seminar.

Taskhiri said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a key role in presenting Islamic views to Muslim women throughout the world.

He emphasized that political issues do not overshadow the organizations' relations with other nations, and that the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations will attend a seminar entitled, "Family in Islam and Christianity" in Washington in the near future. Through such participation, the organization aims to familiarize the world with valuable Islamic viewpoints.

Taskhiri said that holding special ceremonies for Women's Week in Croatia, Austria, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and South Africa is an important global phenomenon.

As for the Seminar on the "Power of Islam", to be held in London next Monday, Taskhiri said that it commemorates Kalim Seddiqi and focuses on several subjects, including the intellectual revolution in Islam, the life and work of Kalim Seddiqi, and the state of contemporary Islamic movement.



TEHRAN (Oct. 30): Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri addresses participants at the 5th Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults. He called on publishers to provide the necessary facilities for the new generation to develop their talents in writing and research. Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mustafa Mirsalim awarded the winners.

Velayati Confers With Special Russian Envoy

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN—Special Russian envoy for Afghanistan affairs, Alexander Ablov, here yesterday submitted the message of the Russian Foreign minister to his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati.

Ablov, who came to Tehran for attending the Regional Conference on Afghanistan, said that Iran's initiative of holding the conference is a key step towards settlement of the crisis in Afghanistan.

He emphasized that the Tehran Regional Conference on Afghanistan was warmly welcomed by the government and people of Russia.

Referring to the international community's concern over the grave situation in Afghanistan, Ablov said that both the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia share the policy that foreign powers should not interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs, and that the problem of this country should be resolved through peaceful negotiations among warring factions.

He underlined that the people of Afghanistan should determine their own fate and called for the continuation of cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia for restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Referring to the remarkable achievements of the Regional Conference on Afghanistan, the special Russian envoy voiced readiness to offer every possible help to put an end to the Afghan conflict.

In the meantime, the Iranian foreign minister called on regional countries to take firm action for restoration of peace and tranquility in Afghanistan.

Velayati further emphasized that the Tehran conference would pave the way for further regional and international actions regarding the Afghan issue, saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran warmly welcomes all efforts in this regard.

Referring to the struggle of the people of Afghanistan for their independence, Velayati said that the Afghan people once faced an invasion by a superpower, now they do not allow another superpower to have an illegitimate presence in their country.

Velayati concluded by saying that continuation of war in Afghanistan will lead to further destruction of the country. He expressed hope that the Regional Conference on Afghanistan would pave the way for the realization of national ideals of the people of Afghanistan.



TEHRAN (Oct. 29): The outgoing Turkish Ambassador to Tehran Ahmet Mithat (L), Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati (C) and the visiting Turkish State Minister for Human Rights Lutfi Esengun (R) confer during a ceremony marking the National Day of Turkey.

(Contd from Pg. 2)

AZERI..

where works of great Iranian poets, Ganjavi, Ferdowsi, Sa'di and Hafiz are kept.

The museum was opened here in 1941 on the occasion of the 800th birthday anniversary of Ganjavi.

On the same day, Habibi paid tribute to Azeri martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the course of the republic's independence.

He laid wreaths of flowers on graves of 81 martyrs who were massacred in the city of Baku by troops of the former Soviet Union in January 20, 1990.

Meanwhile, Iran-Azerbaijan Friendship Center was opened at presence of the Iranian delegation.

Iran's Ambassador to Baku, Ali Reza Bigdeli who was also present in the ceremony said that Tehran-Baku cultural ties provide the best model for other countries.

Habibi expressed hope that establishment of the center would play major role in expansion of cultural relations between the two countries.

On Tuesday the Iranian senior official paid a visit to the historical Shah Abbas Mosque. (IRNA)

Anti-Taleban Coalition to Meet in Northern Afghanistan

JABUL-SARAJ, Afghanistan — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani is to host a meeting of leaders of an anti-Taleban coalition later Wednesday, an official said.

Merhabuddin Mastam, a spokesman for the leader of the former government's forces Ahmed Shah Masood, said the meeting in Rabbani's northern stronghold of Taloquan would include Masood, and former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Speaking at Masood's headquarters here, Mastam said the three would discuss the political ramifications of an anti-Taleban alliance signed earlier this month with Uzbek leader, General Abdul Rashid Dostam, and the Hezb-i-Wahdat Faction of Karim Khallili.

The talks will also allow the coalition to maintain ties with Hekmatyar, sources here said, adding it would be "dangerous" to allow the former prime minister too much latitude in the current situation.

The sources said the coalition strategy was to push right to the gates of Kabul while maintaining their demand that the Taleban leave the city.

The front in the northwest would allow them to keep pressure on the Taleban and a third front in the east was been considered using the Hezb-i-Wahdat, the sources said.

"Time is on our side," one of Masood's commanders said.

The talks come at a time when the frontlines appear to have stagnated.

Meanwhile, jets belonging to the forces of northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam bombed the frontlines north of Kabul Wednesday, journalists and witnesses said.

"A Dostam jet dropped one bomb early this morning, but we suffered no casualties," Taleban soldiers on the new road north of Kabul told AFP.

The new road, one of the two northbound highways exiting the city, wends through an uninhabited desert area and over a small mountain pass to reach Bagram Airbase 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of the capital.

Bagram is controlled by a coalition of troop belonging to ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani under the command of Ahmad Shah Masood and Dostam's ethnic Uzbek fighters. (AFP)



EU Set for $650-Million Payout to Beef Farmers

LUXEMBOURG — The European Union's Irish presidency on Wednesday proposed paying out $650 million to beef farmers in an attempt to break the deadlock over a plan to slash production in line with the slump in consumption and prices caused by "mad cow" disease.

The proposal of a concrete figure for aid to farmers, thousands of whom face bankruptcy this winter, put a deal on the package in sight, officials said.

"This could serve as the basis for an agreement," one source said.

The talks were suspended until 1400 GMT to allow officials to study the proposals in detail.

On Tuesday, the ministers threw out an earlier package which held out a vague promise of further aid to the sector but failed to make a specific commitment on the size of the package.

Under the Irish proposals, the new aid will be distributed among the member states in proportion to the size of their beef herds.

France, which has led the campaign for extra cash, accounts for 25 percent of EU beef production.

The extra aid would be financed partly by bringing forward premium payments worth 300 million dollars from next year. The European Commission would have to find the rest out of surpluses in the current budget. (AFP)

IPCC Calls For Massive Turnout of People on National Day of Combat Against Global Arrogance

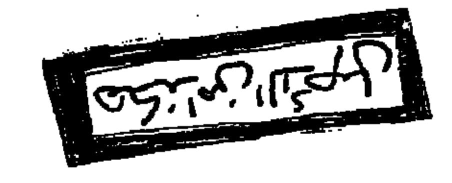
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Islamic Propagation Coordination Council (IPCC) in a statement yesterday called on people from different walks of life, especially students, to participate in the special ceremonies marking the National Day for Combat Against the Global Arrogance, November 3, which is due to be held in front of the former U.S. Embassy here.

The statement urged the people to show their firm will in front of the (Den of Spies), condemning the hostile treatments of the global imperialism and international Zionism and renewing their allegiance with the ideals of the Father of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini, and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

On Nov.3, 1964, the grand Leader of the Islamic Revolution, late Ayatollah Imam Khomeini was exiled by Shah regime. Later on Nov.3, 1978 several students were martyred at Tehran University campus while calling for the overthrow of the former regime.

Finally on Nov.3, 1979 a group of university students, known as the Followers of Imam Khomeini's Path, captured the former U.S. embassy which for years had been engaged in espionage activities against the Iranian nation.



Carlos to Ban Book on His Crimes

PARIS – Jailed terrorist Carlos – known as "The Jackal" – on Tuesday sought to ban a book about his alleged crimes and demanded more than $100,000 in damages for the harm done to his reputation, his lawyer said.

The convicted killer launched an action in a Paris court against a book entitled "Carlos – The Secret Networks of International Terrorism," which he says sullies his name, demanding 700,000 francs ($135,000) compensation.

He was the world's most wanted terrorist and is charged with six terror blasts in France between 1974 and 1983.

(AFP)

Colombia Launches War on Bullfrog

BOGOTA – The Colombian government has unveiled plans costing thousands of dollars to confront a new enemy – the bullfrog.

Since it was illegally brought into the country in 1986, the large amphibian has spread and is beginning to destabilize the natural order in some areas because of its voracious appetite for small amphibians and insects, the Environment Ministry says.

In a weekend bulletin, the ministry said it was donating about $79,000, mainly to the country's coffee growing regions, to eradicate the frog-turned-pest.

(Reuter)

Ex-Minister Spy Charge Sparks Storm in France

PARIS – Allegations that a former French defense minister spied for the Soviet bloc sparked a political storm here Wednesday, ranging from angry denials to reports that he was not the only such "mole."

The charges against Charles Hernu, a Socialist, who resigned in 1985 amid the scandal over the sinking of the Greenpeace flagship rainbow warrior in New Zealand, were made in the weekly news magazine *L'Express*.

It said that Hernu, who died in 1990 after serving as defense minister from 1981-85, spied for the KGB and two Soviet satellite states during the 1950s and 60s. Ex-President Francois Mitterrand was told about the affair four years ago but ordered it kept secret, as did subsequent political leaders, it added.

Former European Commission President Jacques Delors, a ministerial colleague of Hernu at the time, said he was "stupefied" by the accusations, while Hernu's son Patrice condemned the report as "a tissue of gross fabrications."

According to *L'Express*, Hernu was paid notably by Bulgarian and Romanian secret services, as well as the KGB.

Identified under the pseudonym "Andre," he was paid about 500 dollars a month by Bulgarian secret services from 1954-56, boosted to up to 3,000 dollars a month when he became a member of Parliament in 1956.

From 1961 he worked for the Romanian securitate under a new alias, "Dinu," as he came closer to Mitterrand. He came under the direct employ of the KGB in 1963.

Hernu became defence minister in 1981, and resigned in 1985 in the wake of the Greenpeace affair. (AFP)



SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Oct. 29): Bosnian Serb leader Momcilo Krajisnik (L), Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic (C) and Bosnian Croat presidency member Kresimir Zubak (R) sit around a conference table at the beginning of the third session of the new Bosnian presidency which was held in Sarajevo. The three were elected as the members of the Bosnian presidency in the first post-war general elections in September. Three men sitting in background are unidentified.

(AFP PHOTO)

21 Killed, 50 Wounded in Airport Attack

MOGADISHU – At least 21 people were killed and 50 wounded Wednesday when militiamen of Somali warlord Osman Hassan Ali "Atto" attacked and occupied an airstrip 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Mogadishu, survivors said.

The survivors said Osman Atto's forces used more than eight armed wagons, generally known as technicals, to attack the airport, which is normally under the control of forces of rival Hussein Aidid.

The lightning attack came as planes were landing at the airstrip to deliver Khat, the green narcotic leaves, from Kenya.

At least one of the small planes delivering Khat was damaged in the attack and the fate of the pilot and his Kenyan assistant could not be ascertained, although other reports indicated that they had been captured. (AFP)

Philippine Airlines Ground Employees Go on Strike

MANILA – Philippine Airlines (PAL) ground employees went on strike Wednesday over wage increases, paralysing domestic operations and disrupting several international flights, officials said.

The 8,700-member PAL Employees Association (PALEA) said their members mounted the strike at 6:00 p.m. (1000 GMT) following a deadlock in their collective bargaining agreement with management.

Hundreds of international flight passengers who arrived after the walkount waited for hours for their baggage, which came in trickles at the Manila Airport. Many of them angrily left without the cases and bags. (AFP)

Former Indian PM Charged in Bribery Case

NEW DELHI – Former Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was charged Wednesday with bribing four members of Parliament during a confidence vote in Parliament in 1993.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed charges against Rao and two of his aides over the payment of one million dollars to four regional politicians three years ago in exchange for their vote.

Special judge Aajit Bharihoke said his court would open a pre-trial hearing on Friday.

The four Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM, Jharkhand Freedom Front) members of Parliament are in prison on charges of holding huge sums of unaccounted money.

The two others named by the CBI were former federal ministers Buta Singh and Satish Sharma.

Rao earlier Wednesday appeared before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Prem Kumar on forgery charges in an unrelated case.

Rao, 75, who was elected Prime Minister in 1991 but ousted earlier this year, stands accused of masterminding the forgery of documents in 1989, when he was the foreign minister, to defame political rival and then-opposition leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

He is also facing trial in a case of cheating a London-based Indian businessman of 100,000 dollars in 1983. (AFP)

Four Pakistani Army Officers Found Guilty of Plot to Overthrow Bhutto

ISLAMABAD – A military court Wednesday convicted four senior Pakistani army officers of plotting to overthrow Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government, the Defense Ministry announced.

The four, including a major general, were given varying terms of hard labor in jail and also dismissed from the service, the announcement said.

The court martial of the officers, who were arrested in September 1995, lasted for nine months.

The court sentenced Major General Zahir-ul-Islam Abbasi to seven years imprisonment and Brigadier Mustansir Billah – who had been pinpointed by newspapers as the mastermind of the plot – to 14 years in jail.

Colonel Inayatullah Khan was given four years and Colonel Muhammad Azad Minhas was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

The four officers were tried on charges of "conspiring to overthrow the federal government by means of criminal force," the Defense Ministry statement said.

They were also found guilty of "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline" and attempting to "seduce" personnel in the military forces from allegiance to the government of Pakistan, it added. (AFP)

Bangladesh Cyclone Death Toll Rises to 14

DHAKA – The death toll from the cyclone that hit coastal Bangladesh Tuesday rose to 14 Wednesday with 11 further deaths reported by residents in the affected areas.

The bodies of five fishermen were seen floating in the Bay of Bengal, two other people drowned and four were killed.

Three children were reported killed early Tuesday when the storm struck southwestern Khulna district, 335 kilometers (208 miles) southwest of Dhaka.

The cyclone packed winds of up to 75 kilometres (45 miles) per hour and whipped up tidal waves, the storm warning center said. (AFP)

Qatari Ruling Family Retains Key Posts in New Cabinet

DOHA – Qatar's Prime Minister, Sheikh Abdallah ibn Khalifa al-Thani, appointed a new Cabinet on Wednesday, retaining the job of interior minister and keeping other family members in key ministerial posts.

Sheikh Hamad ibn Khalifa al-Thani, the ruling emir and the premier's half-brother, stayed on as defense minister while other relatives retained their jobs as foreign and finance ministers.

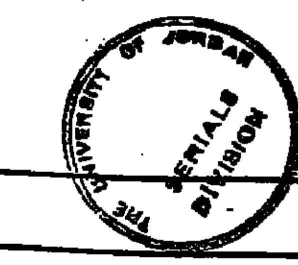
Abdallah ibn Hamad al-Attiya was reappointed minister of energy and industry to manage Qatar's enormous gas reserves and modest oil reserves.

Sheikh Abdallah, whom the emir named premier on Tuesday, appointed new faces to the ministeries of housing, education, transportation, health and religious affairs and eliminated the Information Ministry.

The official Qatar News Agency as well as radio and television stations, which came under the Information Ministry, would become autonomous.

Sheikh Hamad ibn Jassem ibn Jabr al-Thani remained foreign minister, while Sheikh Mohammad ibn Khalifa al-Thani retained the post of minister of finance, economy and commerce.

The new ministers are Sheikh Falah ibn Jassem al-Thani (civil and housing affairs) Sheikh Ahmad ibn Nasser al-Thani (communications and transportation), Mohammad Abderrahim Kafod (education, teaching and culture), Abderrahman Salem al-Kawari (public health) and Ahmad Abdallah al-Merri (Waqfs and Islamic affairs). (AFP)



TEHRAN TIMES OCTOBER 31, 1996

IMF Accused of Double Standards in Granting Loans

The International Monetary Fund has been accused of using its loan scheme to help the Russian president defeat a resurgent Communist challenge in the recent run-off election.

Washington: The International Monetary Fund is moving to strike down suggestions that it bent over backwards to help the Russian president defeat a resurgent Communist challenge in the run-off election in July 1996.

But suspicions linger, fueled by the Fund's own staffers, published reports, and Russian officials. Observers warn the hint of double standards may come to haunt the IMF in its dealings with other countries.

There is no doubt that a weaker government' off the geopolitical screen would have been treated differently, Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Harvard Institute for International Development and one-time economic policy adviser to Moscow, told IPS.

Sachs was referring to charges that the IMF failed to treat Moscow with its characteristic strictness when the terms of the second-largest loan it has ever granted were violated — charges the institution strenuously denies.

In February, the IMF approved a three-year, $10.2 billion loan to Russia — second only to the 1995 'bailout' loan to Mexico. The IMF credit also cleared the way for loans from France and Germany.

Before the loan, opinion polls gave Yeltsin an 8% approval rating. With the loan n hand, he doled out an undisclosed sum on the campaign trail and, by some accounts, committed his government to as much as $10 billion in spending promises. On 3 July, he defeated Zyuganov 54% to 40%.

'They made a risky call, but the were lucky and it turned out well,' Sachs said of the IMF's loan operation.

After the elections, the IMF asserted its disciplinarian role, withholding a loan instalment. It now faces a litmus test, say observers: Will it continue to hold Moscow's feet to the fire of fiscal and monetary discipline it has now relit, or revert to the leniency it emphatically denies having practised in the lead-up to the polls?

Some indication is expected to emerge from an IMF mission to Moscow and talks in London, both scheduled for August 1996. Senior officials in yeltsin's cabinet, the central bank, and the finance and economics ministries have told journalist in the past few weeks that they fully expect the IMF to keep coming through with credit instalments.

The Russian loan was tied to a number of strict monetary and fiscal targets. IMF officials insist they have been serious about compliance all along. Hence the Fund imposed monthly performance targets rather than its standard quarterly ones.

The record suggests the targets were interpreted as flexibly as possible by both borrower and lender, according to The economist.

In June, Yeltsin ordered the central bank to transfer $1 billion to the federal budget to pay for some of these promises, which included releasing back pay and pensions to state workers. His action sparked fears that inflation would rise and forced the bank to tighten credit.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus insisted that Russia was 'up to date on performance criteria'.

His own staff may not have been so sure.

'As early as in April and May, visiting IMF teams realised what a heavy blow Yeltsin's (pre-election) spending had dealt to the economy,. but they knew how much was at stake in this election,' Russian economist Alexander Bekker told IPS in July 1996.

A comparison of official Russian public finance figures with original targets set in the February IF agreement reveals that Moscow lost no time in exceeding the agreed-upon limit for the budget deficit.

The IMF target for April was 4.8% of gross domestic product (GDP). Even by Moscow's conservative reckoning, which does not take into account it interest payments on high-yielding treasury bills, the budget deficit reached 7.0% of GDP that month, The Economist reported.

Falling revenues and swollen election spending pushed the deficit to just over 6% of GDP in the first half of this year, well above the IMF's 4% target for the year, according to others in the financial press.

John Odling-Smee, director f the department that oversees the IMF's Russia operations, denied any leniency toward Moscow. 'It is quite common, particularly under a tight and ambitious program of the kind designed with the Russian authorities, to modify certain parameters,' Odling-Smee said in a letter to The Economist.

Such statements, diplomats here say, seem consistent with assessments of the loan package as having considerable — and exceptional — leeway built into it.

IMF officials are standing their ground, however. 'Rather than turn a "blind eye" to Russian economic policy, the IF has continued to work very closely with Russian policy-makers,' Odling-Smee said. 'Indeed, the intensity of the IMF's involvement with Russia may be unprecedented.'

The nature of that involvement has been called into question by Russian official themselves. 'Book-keeping tricks were pulled on both sides,' one Russian minister told The Economist.

At the time of the elections, commentatros in the financial press were predicting the Fund would get tough and 'look for results' from Moscow after the polls closed. This appears to be what happened.

IMF official on 22 July withheld a loan tranche, or instalment, of some $330 million pending improved tax collection. Some corporations did not pay their taxes until they were convinced the Communists had lost. Others were granted exemptions by Yeltsin.

To the apparent embarrassment of the Fund, the July tranche delay came a mere week after IF First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer told journalists in Moscow, 'What happened here was little short of miraculous.' Russia had come 'very close' to meeting targets, Fischer said. Moscow had not exceeded 'adjusted' ceilings on budget deficit and any overstepping of monetary targets was 'slight'.

He was confident that Moscow would continue to meet the loan's requirements, painful as some of them were.

The financial results may, for now, be less important than the political ones. AS Sachs put it, 'Yeltsin won the election, and the world is a better place for it.'

It is widely accepted that, simply by its willingness to approve the loan and make disbursements during an election year, the IF acted to thwart resurgent communism and nationalism and boost capitalism some five years after the Soviet Union's collapse. The extent to which it was pushed to do so by its major shareholders remains subject to debate.

If the IF bowed to shareholder demands, its was not the first time. In 1987, Germany and the United States 'urged the IMF to lend to Egypt, a cornerstone of (US) Middle East diplomacy, on terms that some Fund officials considered too generous (one resigned over the issue)', The Economist stated.

The message to developing countries is clear, diplomatic sources say: If you don't have strategic importance to leverage against your creditors, then you must do their bidding irrespective of the political consequences you stand to suffer.

(Third World Network Features)

German Rate Cut Not Needed Now, Says Chief Economist

FRANKFURT — The Bundesbank does not need to cut its interest rates in the current climate but if conditions changed. the bank would act accordingly. the chief economist at the bank Otmar Issing said on Wednesday.

"A reduction of rates is not needed under current conditions. If these conditions change we would study the situation and act accordingly," he said in a summary distributed on Wednesday of an interview with the Magazine Boerse Online.

These remarks appeared to qualify a recent statement in which Issing said that a rate cut was not needed and should not be expected.

This was taken as implying that the cycle of cuts in German rates had come to an end and sparked a sharp rise of the mark.

Bundesbank sources then said that Issing has been misinterpreted and that he had been referring to the short and medium term.

Since then the president of the Bundesbank Hans Tietmeyer has also implied that a further cut of rates should not necessarily be ruled out.

The rise of the mark was accentuated on Tuesday by reaction to a report by top German forecasting institutes that the German economy would rally this year and grow strongly next year but that Germany would overshoot limits for qualification to participate in the launch of a single currency.

Financial markets took the view that this cast a shadow over the timetable for Economic and Monetary Union and for the prospects of convergence between EU currencies and interest rates.

(AFP)

South Should Correct Imbalances in WTO Agreements

An important aim of developing countries should be to try to correct the imbalances in the WTO agreements and make the system more useful to them, says the writer. he lists the imbalances. (First of a two-part article on the WTO and Developing Countries).

Geneva: One of the main objectives of the proponents of the Uruguay Round was to obtain commitments and concessions from the developing countries. It is no surprise that the final outcome is heavily weighted towards the fulfillment of these objectives.

Consequently, the contents of the agreements have several imbalances with adverse implications for the interest of the developing countries. Hence an important aim of developing countries should be to try and correct these imbalances and make the WTO (World Trade Organization) system more useful to them.

Dispute Settlement: The Dispute Settlement Understanding mechanism of the WTO has been hailed as a major achievement of the Round in terms of the enforcement of rights and obligations. The DSU has enhanced the effectiveness and curtailed the dilatory tactics by prescribing specific time schedules.

This process is ideally suitable for disputes between equally powerful partners, but may prove less effective when a weak trading partner is to get redress against omissions and commissions of a strong trading partner.

Under normal circumstances a member with a grievance may have to wait for nearly two years to get any redress. To wait for two years to get full relief would be a case of justice delayed by any standard. For a weak trading partner, like many developing countries, such delayed relief may sometimes be totally infractuous as their trade and economy would have suffered irreparable damage. Resilience of their industry is comparably low and therefore they may not be able to sustain the adverse impact of wrong actions by powerful trading partners.

Even the delayed relief could be illusory for weak trading partners, since the ultimate means of getting relief is through retaliation. While normally, moral and political pressure would work to persuade an erring member to take corrective action in accordance with the recommendations of the Dispute Settlement Body (according to the panel rulings), in real difficult cases where domestic compulsions of the erring member make implementation difficult or inconvenient, the erring member may drag its feet or totally refuse to take corrective action, running the risk of retaliation.

There will be more willingness to run such a risk where the affected member is not strong or an important trading partner- and developing countries are more likely to be exposed to such risks. And for an affected developing country it may be more risky to take retaliatory action.

The most serious weakness of the dispute settlement system is the severe curtailment of its role in anti-dumping (where) panels have been specifically restrained from pronouncing whether or not such a measure is consistent with obligations under the Agreement on Anti-dumping. The panels can only determine whether the establishment of facts has been unbiased and objective. Once these are established, the evaluation (of the facts) by the authorities will not be challenged, even if the panel comes to a different conclusion. And where the provisions of the agreement admit of more than one interpretation, the panel must declare the measure to be in conformity if it rests upon one of these permissible interpretations. The curtailment of the role of panels in anti-dumping cases is particularly harmful to developing countries.

Also, this provision si to be reviewed after three years to consider whether it should be made more generally applicable, and thus there is a possibility of extending this to other areas- which will render the dispute settlement process totally ineffective and infructuous.

The work of the panels over the past few years has tended to be intensely technical, with panels going into fine points of law, and it is becoming difficult for developing authorities to prepared their cases and make representations. Often they have to employ lawyers and experts from developed countries, which may prove costly.

Recently, in the banana case, the Caribbean countries fond even if they temporarily engage lawyers, they will be excluded from the panel proceedings, on the ground they are permanent government employees.

Market Access: It has been repeatedly said that developed countries have re reduced their tariffs significantly during the Uruguay Round and have been credited with reducing their trade-weighted average by 39%. But their trade-weighted average on industrial products has already been reduced from 6.9% to 3.9% (under the Tokyo Round). From this angle, all that the new redactions means is that a product with a unit price of $100 will now cost $103.9 as against $106.3 earlier. This is a more realistic description.

It is not only the industrial countries that have reduced their tariffs, but developing countries have also been made significant reduction. But the average tariffs of developed countries on exports of developing countries are relatively high (such as on textile, clothing and leather goods) and their tariff escalation continues to be high despite commitments on various occasions to reduce or eliminate them.

The justification often given that developing countries have for long enjoyed fruits of the MFN (Most Favored Nation) treatment is only a partial truth. In their development process, developing countries have absorbed vast quantities of products of developed countries and thus supported their industrial production, particularly during periods of recession. In all fairness due credit must be given to these. hence the less attention paid to products of export interest to them is not justified. Instead of putting developing countries on the defensive, the developed countries should recognize this contribution and concentrate on further reducing tariffs on products of export interest to the developing world.

Contingency trade measures: While significant improvements have been made in safeguards, subsidies and dumping rules, particularly by enhancing objectivity and the de minimis clauses, it is clear that in the area of subsidies it is developing countries that have made significant concessions. Earlier, it was recognized they could use subsidies as a tool in their development process. Now, except for a few measures like freight subsidy, they are now generally debarred from using subsidy as a tool of development.

While the new rules on safeguards do not permit targeting a country or a set of countries, and any action has to be on a global basis, in allocation of share of global quotas there is provision for deviation from normal practice. This enabling provision may be used to reduce quotas of developing countries. Special care needs to be taken to ensure that they are not used in a discriminatory manner to the disadvantage of developing countries. Care is needed particularly in initial stages when practices develop into accepted interpretations.

It is desirable to develop clear criteria for conditions and extent of departure from normal practice in allocation of share of global quotas.

On safeguards, developing countries have the benefit of de minimis provisions, but it is not at all clear how they will operate. If a member takes tariff-type measures, it is not clear how a developing country falling within de minimis provision will be excluded from higher tariffs. And if quantitative restrictions are adopted, it is not clear either whether a developing country falling within de minimis provision will be totally excluded from the quotas.

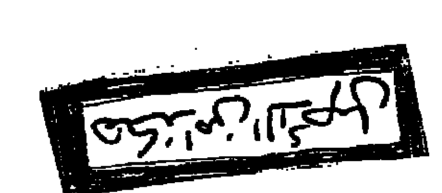
Since developing countries falling within de minimis are totally excluded from safeguard actions, it is desirable to stipulate clearly that neither the higher tariffs nor any limits to exports will apply to these countries.

Subsidies: Commonly practised subsidies of developed countries (such as for R&D, development of backward regions and adoption of environmentally friendly technologies) have all been included in the list of non-actionable subsidies. But subsidies that developing countries generally apply have been generally excluded from this category.

The industrial and trading firms of developing countries generally suffer from natural handicaps— and don't have advantages of large scale of operations, availability of technology and finance, entry to international networking. Therefore it is sometimes necessary to provide subsidies so that there is diversification and upgradation of production and entry into new markets. These needs have been totally ignored by the Subsidies Agreement.

It is desirable to recognize these needs, as has been done in the case of subsidy practices of developed countries. Developing country subsidies for upgradation and diversification of production, absorption and adaptation of higher technologies and for entry into new markets should be made non-actionable.

(Third World Network Features)



TV Programs

Thursday Evening, October 31

National Network, Channel 1:

12:30 Focus on Family
14:00 News
14:30 Focus on Family
15:45 Kids Corner
16:30 News
17:00 The Voice of the Plain
17:30 Call to Prayer (Azan)
17:40 Religious Program
17:50 The Move
18:00 Children's Program
18:15 Lessons From the Holy Qoran
18:50 The Move
19:00 News
19:10 Focus on Imam Khomeini
19:45 Report on Economy
19:55 Majlis and the People
20:40 Press Review
20:50 Martyrs
21:00 News
21:15 Commercials _ Music
21:25 Interlude
21:50 Life and Jurisprudence
22:00 Religious Program
22:15 Autumn Night-Time
22:30 Weekly Quiz Show
23:15 The Altar of Love (Religious Program)
23:30 Commercials
23:40 Feature Movie

National Network, Channel 2:

13:10 Miscellaneous
13:20 Autumn
14:00 Iranian TV Series
15:00 Our Children
15:15 The World of Science
15:30 Teaching Chemistry
16:00 Teaching Biology
16:15 Elementary Mathematics
16:30 Advanced Physics
17:00 Sports Program
17:30 Autumn
18:00 Exploration Inside the Body
18:03 Call to Prayer (Azan)
18:30 Computer
19:00 Children's Program
20:00 Our Iran
20:30 Scientific-Cultural News
20:45 Religious Program
21:00 A Different Feature
22:30 News
22:45 Nightly Notes
23:00 Weekly Political Discussion
23:45 Man, Theater, Time

National Network, Channel 3:

16:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Qoran
16:10 Religious Program
16:45 Sports Program
17:30 Call to Prayer(Azan)
17:40 Sports Program
19:45 Sports News
20:00 Foreign TV Series
20:45 Unveiled Faces
22:50 Interlude
23:00 News (in English)

National Network, Tehran Channel:

17:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Qoran
17:15 In the City
17:30 Call to Prayer
17:45 Advisors
18:15 Sport Roundup
18:30 Tehran News
18:45 In the City
19:00 Quiz Show
19:15 Excuse Me
19:30 Iranian TV Series
19:50 The World Today
20:00 The 5th Look
20:30 Cherry Up
21:00 Tehran Districts
21:15 Theater on TV
22:00 News Commentary
22:15 In the City
22:30 Komail Supplications
23:15 Another Kind
23:30 Cinema
24:00 The Fifth Look

Friday Morning, November 1

National Network, Channel 1:

11:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic
11:10 Message Network
11:48 Call to Prayer (Azan)
12:30 Recitation of the Holy Qoran

National Network, Channel 2:

08:00 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Qoran
08:15 Football School
08:30 A New Day
9:00 Interesting Scenes
11:30 Religious Program
11:48 Call to Prayer (Azan)
12:00 Weekly Political Discussion

National Network, Channel 3:

07:30 National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Recitations From the Holy Qoran
07:45 Reflection
08:15 Interlude
08:30 Iranian TV Series
09:30 Unveiled Faces
10:15 Interlude
10:30 Foreign TV Series
11:15 Religious Program

BURMA: Links with the past, two Padaung women near Loikaw in eastern Burma wear heavy stacks of brass neck rings, once intended, according to legend, to fend off tiger attacks. Added one at a time from childhood, the rings do not stretch the neck but push down the collarbones and ribs. Rare in Burma, neck rings appear increasingly across the Thai border, where some Padaung now live. A woman can earn $40 month modeling the rings for tourists — finding in their exotic past a way to survive a cruel present.

(Courtesy National Geographic)

Sheep Protest for Their Paths

MADRID, Spain — It's not every day that 2,000 sheep scamper through downtown Madrid's main plazas and busiest thoroughfares.

But there they were on Sunday morning, accompanied by six shepherds and a few thousand delighted onlookers, walking through Spain's largest city as part of a campaign to preserve some 90,000 kilometers (55,800 miles) of traditional livestock paths that crisscross the country.

"This used to be one of the pathways, so it makes sense that the sheep walk this way," said Moises Perez, a shop owner who watched the procession from his stoop along the Calle Mayor, one of Madrid's oldest streets.

The "baas" mixed with the clatter of bells and the cries of the leather-vested shepherds were welcome sounds to the coalition of farmers and ecologist groups working to maintain the pathways, many dating back to the Middle Ages, against urban and rural development.

Keeping the routes open, said Hilario Villalvilla of the environmental group Aedenat, helps safeguard public land — about 420,000 hectares (1 million acres) — protects wildlife and water resources and preserves one of the storied traditions of rural Spanish life.

"This is an environmental issue but it is also a way of keeping alive something very close to Spanish culture," said Villalvilla. "It's a wonderful sight."

Fresh from a summer spent in Spain's cool northern mountains, the sheep are on a month-long, 900-kilometer (560-mile), trek back to their home farms near the western city of Caceres.

Most of the roughly 1.2 million livestock that leave Spain's parched southern plains in the summer and return in the fall make the trip by truck or train. Only 200,000 make their way overland.

The pathways, which extend from the Pyrenees mountains in Aragon to the plains of Andalucia, have deteriorated in the past three decades from construction and a preference for faster travel.

But owing to national legislation mandating the protection of the pathways, ecologists are hopeful that an increasing number of livestock owners will choose the cheaper and natural route.

In the process, the pathways will be made available to walkers, bicyclists and naturalists.

"I like to see the sheep, it reminds me of my younger days," said Jose Santos Villanueva, 73, who worked much of his life tending sheep near the city of Todelo south of Madrid.

In the capital, the sheep, escorted by police and trailed by a city clean-up crew, circled the stone Puerta de Alcala Arch before listening to a folk songs and heading to nearby park lands for the evening.

With just a week left in the long trek, shepherd Jose Garcia said that while he was thrilled so many people came out to see the sheep, he was concerned how the animals were holding up.

"I'm a bit tired after so much walking," said Garcia, 25, who has been making similar treks ever since he was 10 years old. "Actually, I'm more worried about the animals' feet — the ground here is awfully hard."

(AP)

Airbags May Kill More Children Than They Save

WASHINGTON — Car airbags may kill twice as many children in automobile accidents as they help save, according to a recent study by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The study showed that the safety devices may have led to the deaths of about 52 children per year since 1988 when airbags were required in all new cars.

NHTSA administrator Ricardo Martinez met last week with the families of 16 children killed in automobile accidents in which airbags had inflated. The administration recognized that in most of the cases, the children would not have died if the airbags had not opened.

The NHTSA also recognized last week for the first time that a 5-year-old Tennessee boy was killed by his airbag while wearing a seatbelt. The administration had argued that in all previous cases, children were killed because they were not wearing their safety belts.

(AFP)

Argentina Unworried About Proximity to "Hole" in Ozone

BUENOS AIRES — Argentines should not worry about the thinning ozone layer over southern Argentina, according to the head of the Argentine National Weather Service.

"The hole in the ozone is important but not serious," Ramon Sonzini told reporters recently at the conclusion of an environmental conference on climate, in Ushuaia, some 2,400 kilometers (1,500 miles) south of Buenos Aires.

Scientists believe ozone depletion is due to chlorofluorocarbons, compounds found in air conditioners, refrigerators and aerosol cans, as well as toxic gases from certain industrial processes.

The ozone protects the earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation, and appears to be thinnest over the Southern Hemisphere.

Britain advises its citizens in the South Atlantic — particularly in the Falkland Islands, known here as the Malvinas — to protect themselves with sunglasses, sunblock and long sleeves.

(AFP)

Seafarers Report 125 Pirate Attacks

INDONESIA TOPS LIST

KUALA LUMPUR — Piracy on the high seas throughout the world dipped slightly to 125 cases from January to September, with Indonesia still recording the most cases, officials said recently.

"Indonesia remains the highest risk area in the number of attacks reported," the Kuala Lumpur-based International Maritime Bureau (IMB) said in its latest piracy report released here.

However, most of the 36 incidents in Indonesian waters during the nine-month period were mainly "thieves creeping aboard to steal ship's equipment", the IMB said.

Of the 125 cases worldwide, 63 pirate attacks occurred in Southeast Asia, 14 in the Far East, 16 in the Indian subcontinent, 20 in the Americas, 10 in Africa and two in other parts of the world including Russia.

The IMB reported 130 cases worldwide for the corresponding period last year, with Indonesia accounting for 24 cases.

The bureau expressed concern over the growing number of attacks from the Indian subcontinent this year and said it expects attacks in Sri Lanka to rise further.

In its report for the Americas, the IMB said the situation in Brazil remains serious, "with well-armed and organized gangs assaulting the crew and then looting vessels at will".

However, it was critical of the attitude of local authorities in Brazil, India and China in responding to pirate attacks.

Port authorities in Aratu, Brazil failed to responds to pleas of help which the crew of "Kapitan Betkher" had sent by very high frequency radio after six pirates boarded the ship and attacked the crew, the IMB said.

Three attacks on ships at Kandla in Gujarat, India were reported to the IMB since June but "the authorities failed to respond or could not be contacted".

In another case highlighted by the IMB, a gang which had attacked a ship in September last year, struck again after persuading the shipowner to accept a new crew who diverted the ship to Fancheng in southern China.

Despite IMB locating the vessel as it sailed into port and presenting ample evidence of its false name and papers, the local authorities refused to treat it as a criminal matter, the report said.

(AFP)



Heart
Titanium blood pump

Gene Breakthroughs Spur Fears of Discrimination

WASHINGTON - Genetic breakthroughs in the laboratory are spurring fears of discrimination among people in families at risk for hereditary disorders, a new study showed on Thursday.

A Georgetown University survey of people in genetic support groups found that some people decline to take tests, and others do not inform employers or insurers of test results because they fear discrimination or retaliation.

The study by Virginia Lapham at Georgetown and Joan Weiss, director of the Alliance of Genetic Support Groups, is one of a series of reports examining the scientific as well as the social implications of genetics in the recent edition of the Journal Science. The Science article did not mention any specific disorders, but genetic tests are available clinically, or as part of research projects, for a growing number of disorders including cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, and certain breast, colon and kidney cancers, among others.

The 332 people surveyed who have one or more relatives with a genetic disorder were not randomly selected, so they may not be representative of the population as a whole. Still the authors said the findings point to areas of concern that warrant further study.

"Despite concerns about potential genetic discrimination and documentation of individual cases, there is little data about the incidence and range of the problem," they wrote.

One in four survey participants believed they were refused life insurance and more than one in five believe they were denied health insurance because of a genetic disorder in the family. 13% believed they were denied or fired from a job.

Nearly one in 10 chose not to get genetic tests because of fear of discrimination. 18% did not reveal genetic information to insurers, and 17% did not reveal it to employers.

Several state legislatures have begun to grapple with the question of genetic discrimination. About a dozen states have already passed laws limiting insurers' ability to take genetic dispositions into account in setting rates or granting policies.

(Reuter)

Good News for Your Ears

PART 2

The type of noise counts, too. Vibrating or impact noise (such as a striking hammer) can in some cases cause even more damage. When carbon monoxide or alcohol is in one's bloodstream (as in a smoky night-club), one's vulnerability is greater.

Record Levels. Young people's hearing can be permanently damaged by blasting headsets and highly amplified music. The closer they are to the speakers at a rock concert (120 decibels and up), the worse it is. If headphones can be heard two feet away, the music's too loud — turn it down.

When using power tools or petrol-driven lawnmowers, wear noise-resistant ear-muffs or plugs. When noise is extremely loud, use both together. Cotton wool stuffed in the ears provides very little protection.

Babies and children are not immune to the effects of noise. So eliminate toys like cap-guns with known risks to hearing, and fireworks.

Also preventable: Sensorineural loss because of intake of certain ototoxic drugs, which — given in high doses or over a long period of time — can damage the auditory nerve of the cochlear hair cells. These include antibiotics such as aminoglycosides, streptomycin or neomycin, salicylates (which include aspirin), quinine, anti-tumour agents such as cisplatin, and some diuretics. If you're taking any of these, avoid exposure to high-level noise. Should you develop tinnitus (ringing or other sounds in the ears), tell your doctor.

It's important to have a professional examine your hearing. But anyone can try this test at home: raise one hand to your ear and lightly rub the pads of the foreigner and thumb together. If you don't hear a distinct scratching sound you may have some high-frequency loss in that ear.

If you believe your hearing is diminished, first see your GP who will probably refer you to an ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeon. "There could be underlying medical problems that only these specialists can detect," says Dr. Snow. An audiologist may then carry out tests to evaluate hearing problems.

Someone with normal hearing can detect tones up to 24 decibels along a wide range of frequencies. Someone who cannot hear sound in the 25-to-40-decibel range is considered to have mild loss. (This person needs the television turned up higher than normal and occasionally asks for repetition.) Moderate to moderately severe loss occurs in the 41-to 70-decibel range. (This person likes the TV blaring and becomes fatigued trying to catch words.) A person who can' hear in the 71-to 95-decibel range has severe loss.

If appropriate, the ENT department will fit you with a hearing-aid. A basic device contains a tiny microphone, amplifier and speaker, together with a battery. Most NHS aids fit behind the ear, but models are available privately which are about the diameter of a 1p piece and fit completely in the ear canal. Also popular are in-the-ear aids, about the diameter of 2p piece which fit in the outer ear and the canal. These aids range in price from 400 to 900.

For someone with moderate hearing loss, these often do the trick. However, many complain that basic hearing-aids amplify background noise. A boon at intimate gatherings, they can become unbearably distorted in noisy restaurants or at parties.

Wax and Wane. But thanks to electronic technology, some exciting advanced aids have recently come on the market. State-of-the-art aids may automatically adjust for differing frequencies and intensities as you move from one situation to another. They can include an automatic signal processor circuit that emphasizes the high frequencies of human speech — a real help in group situations.

Now hearing-aids can even contain components that amplify more quiet, high-frequency ones: The effect is to clarify fuzzy consonants without amplifying lower-frequency background noises. In time, programmable and digital aids, now entering the scene, may offer even clearer sound. If hearing loss has progressed to a point where hearing-aids cannot help, there are still options.

Tom R. Jones, 52, now hears sounds he hasn't heard for years: the beep of the seat-belt indicator, the drip of the coffee-maker, the dog panting. Jones, whose sensorineural hearing loss began in his early twenties, is one of a select group: recipients of cochlea implants, electronic devices that restore partial hearing in those with profound to complete loss. The implant's electrodes snake through the cochlea, bypassing damaged sensory hair cells and stimulating the auditory nerve directly.

To date, implants have been placed in some 300 people in Britain. While the operation is available through the NHS, few people meet the qualifications, and doctors can't predict exactly how much an individual will benefit. But for people like Tom, who uses the phone again, and whose speech has improved, the implant is miraculous.

With so much at stake, it's important to consult your GP as soon as you suspect a hearing problem. After all, you don't want to miss out on the world's beautiful sounds — especially the sweet words whispered by someone you love.

(Courtesy Reader's Digest April 1993)

Thought

Jesus (P) said: The love of this world and the next cannot be aligned in the heart of a believer, like water and fire in a single vessel.

PRAYER

Noon..........................11:48
Evening.......................17:30
Dawn (tomorrow)...............4:53
Sunrise (tomorrow)............6:27

Smoking Linked to Vision Loss

WASHINGTON — Smokers have a greater risk of losing their vision to a condition known as "Age-related Macular Degeneration," or AMD, according to two studies in this week's *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA).

One study, conducted on 31,843 women between the ages of 50 and 59 — all of them registered nurses — was part of a nurses health study in Boston, Massachusetts.

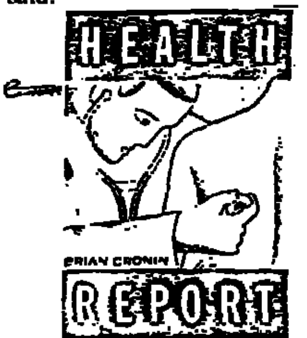
The women were followed for 12 years, with information on their smoking habits updated every two years.

Researchers found that the women who smoked 25 or more cigarettes a day were more than twice as likely to develop AMD, the leading cause of blindness in people aged 65 and older. A similar study conducted on men produced similar results.

"Results of this study provide prospective evidence that smoking increases the risk of developing AMD," the article said of the first study.

It found little reduction in risk of developing the disease even after smokers quit for 15 or more years. In the second study, on men, the researchers said there was an increased risk for past smokers but that it was not as great.

Both studies factored out other habits that could contribute to the disease, such as poor diet and the presence of cataracts, researchers said.



The Good News

Just a year ago, a short-acting form of the controversial BLOOD-PRESSURE drug nifedipine - a calcium-channel blocker - was found to raise the risk of early death in elderly patients. Now a longer-acting form of nifedipine is shown to improve their longevity.

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Minister Acknowledges China's First HIV Scandal

BEIJING - China's health minister has confirmed that a blood tonic product made by an army company was contaminated with the virus that causes AIDS.

But the minister, Chen Cinzhang, told AFP in an interview recently that no patient had been infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and that none of the product had been exported through formal channels.

Chen said the tainted products were discovered in may during a regular safety inspection of the wolongsong-brand ser_m albumin, which is produced by a military factory in the central city of Wuhan.

"When we realized that a sample was infected with the HIV virus, we immediately ordered all the products recalled and all existing stocks destroyed," the minister said.

Some 10,000 vials of the product are still unaccounted for, the New York Times has said, adding that some of these may have been exported to Hong Kong.

"The product was never meant for export," Chen said. "If some of the vials left China, it could only have been through unofficial channels."

The minister, a doctor by training, also said that to date, the blood products had caused no patients to be contaminated with the virus.

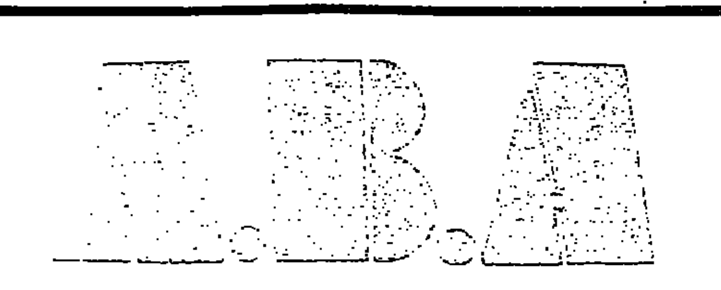
He declined to comment on whether the case resulted from negligence at the Wuhan producer, a blood bank attached to military hospital No. 161.

"I can say only that we didn't wait for this case to happen to impose a system of anti-HIV safety checks — in place already for several years — on all blood donations," Chen said.

He said that according to the most recent survey in August, more than 4,500 HIV-positive cases had been reported in China.

The Wulongsong discovery marks first known case of blood product contamination in China.

(AFP)



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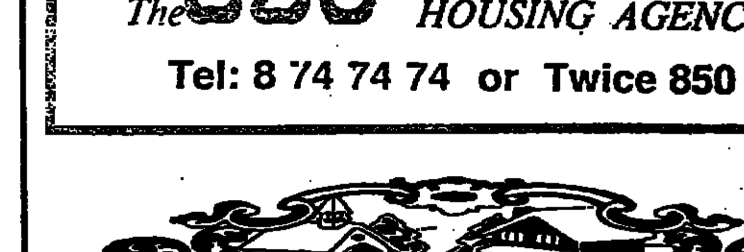
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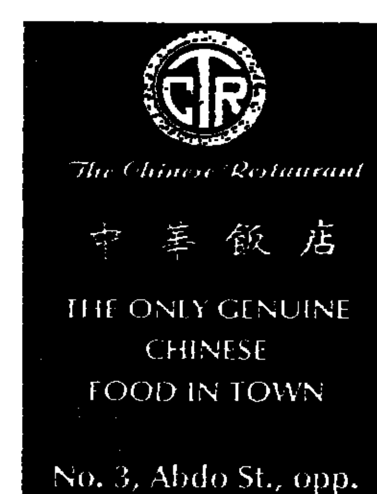
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KABUL, Afghanistan (Oct. 27): An Afghan woman wearing a traditional Islamic veil, locally known as a Burqa, sits beside an armed soldier of the religious Taleban militia in downtown Kabul. Prices for burqas, all-enveloping Afghan veils which completely cover a woman's body, and Muslim skull caps have soared since the Taleban came to town. The Taleban ordered women to cover their complete body whenever they leave their houses.

(AFP PHOTO)

Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk: A One-Man Dynasty Turns 74

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's King Norodom Sihanouk, who turns 74 Thursday, has been a constant glimmer of hope through his country's tumultuous recent history, a claim few world leaders can make.

From his coronation during World War II through the height and decline of the Cold War to his triumphant return to Phnom Penh from exile in 1993, Norodom Sihanouk has been a symbol of hope, stability and reconciliation for his tiny nation.

"There is only one other Cambodian who might be as well known," said one foreign diplomat, referring to Pol Pot, the ruthless leader of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction.

Cambodians from most every political persuasion — even the hard-line Khmer Rouge — claim to be devoted to King Sihanouk "the father of the nation and of peace and reconciliation".

"The fact is that he is the glue which is holding the country together," said another diplomat.

Since reassuming the throne in 1993, the king has successfully mediated a peaceful end to a secession crisis, a coup attempt led by one of his sons, and an alleged plot to assassinate Co-Premier Hun Sen by his half-brother.

Earlier this year, he calmed fierce bickering between the two main parties in Cambodia's coalition government that many feared would lead to renewed fighting.

His most notable failure was the 1994 round table talks he set up between the government and the Khmer Rouge. But according to many analysts the recent well-publicized split in the guerrilla faction may be a delayed result.

Born in 1922, the French-educated prince was thought by Cambodia's colonial masters in Paris to be easily pliable when chosen at 19 to succeed his grandfather King Sisowath Monivong, who died in 1941.

Instead, the young king, originally appointed by the Vichy French to rule Japanese-occupied Cambodia, proved a formidable character after the war, demanding and finally winning total independence from Paris in 1953.

Determined to remain completely independent, King Sihanouk then set his foreign policy on a course of almost fanatical neutrality — cajoling, prodding and threatening both East and West.

Abdicating the throne in 1955 to take a more prominent role in politics, Sihanouk, who would henceforth be a mere prince for almost 40 years, created the authoritarian People's Socialist Community (Sangkum Reastr Niyum) government that prided itself on benevolence.

Roads, bridges and schools were built by the hundreds as the prince played host to a variety of world leaders, accepting assistance from both East and West and pushing them away — as he did with the United States in 1963 — when he felt the balance had slipped.

"Chameleon-like might be an indelicate way to describe (the People's Socialist Community)," said one long-time Cambodian analyst. "It worked for a while, but it couldn't last in the climate of the times."

As the war in Vietnam slipped across Cambodia's borders, Prince Sihanouk, temporarily at peace with Washington again, authorized U.S. bombing strikes to rid his country of Viet Minh troops using eastern Cambodia as staging points for attacks.

That the Viet Minh were there partly as a result of Sihanouk's own foreign policy made no difference. In 1969 the stakes were higher and a year later, when the prince was overthrown in a coup, Cambodia was plunged into one of the 20th century's worst bloodbaths.

Sihanouk first threw his lot in with the Maoist Khmer Rouge, imploring his countrymen from his base in Beijing to rise up and fight the U.S.-backed government in Phnom Penh.

But seeing the horrors of the Khmer Rouge regime shortly after it took power in 1975, the prince reversed his allegiance and resigned his position in a government now held responsible for the deaths of as many as two million Cambodians.

He remained a prisoner in his palace until the Vietnamese Army overthrew the Khmer Rouge in 1979. For much of the 1980s he served as the head of the resistance to the Vietnamese occupation until a peace treaty was signed in 1991.

After the peace agreement paved the way for UN-brokered elections in 1993, and following more than a decade in exile, the king retook the throne as a constitutional monarch who "reigns but does not rule".

He has since proved to be a clever mediator, smoothing political differences that have threatened to destabilize the country.

Burdened by health problems including cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure and at least two mild strokes in the past five years, the king has cut back his public schedule but remains a powerful symbol. (AFP)

A Year After Tense Referendum, Quebec Remains Divided and Edgy

MONTREAL — A year after the referendum that nearly split Canada in two, Quebec is as polarized as ever, its economy in disarray and its morale soured by ceaseless debate over separatism.

Officially, Quebeckers who opposed independence were the victors on Oct. 30, 1995, casting a bare majority 50.6 percent of the votes that were tallied during an evening of wrenching tension.

In many ways, however, the outcome turned Quebeckers on both sides into victims. In part because of political uncertainty, outside investment in Quebec has shrunk and thousands of people are leaving for other provinces. Montreal's 12.6 percent jobless rate is the highest of any big Canadian city.

"Nobody should have to live with a sword of Damocles constantly hanging over their heads," Prime Minister Jean Chretien said during a recent foray into Montreal to preach the rewards of Canadian federalism.

Quebec's separatist-led provincial government doesn't minimize the economic woes. Premier Lucien Bouchard is convening a three-day summit of business and labor leaders to seek a consensus on deficit-cutting, job creation and tax policies.

Bouchard hopes to gain support for painful government spending cuts that would, in a few years, prove to Quebeckers and outsiders that his Parti Quebecois is capable of governing an independent, solvent nation.

And he wants the province on firmer financial footing when the next referendum takes place, perhaps in four or five years.

Monique Simard, vice president of the Parti Quebecois, said the turn of the century could be a highly symbolic moment for Quebec, though she stopped short of predicting the referendum would be held then.

"Four, five, six years — in politics that's an eternity." She said in an interview "but people who've been strong sovereigntists for 20, 25 years agree with our timetable. They are patient. It will happen some day."

Chretien and his federalist allies insist separation is not inevitable, but their strategies vary from week to week, sometimes in contradiction.

Several prominent Quebec federalists were upset when the national government decided in September to ask the Canadian Supreme Court for a ruling on whether Quebec has the right to secede unilaterally.

Justice Minister Allan Rock said the point was to show that Quebec, if it did vote to secede, would face tough negotiations over division of government debt and assets. But the move seemed to play into separatist hands — "It's an attempt to treat Quebec as a captive people," said Bouchard.

Federalists strive to show Quebec the benefits of staying in Canada. Chretien just announced an interest-free, federal loan of 87 million Canadian dollars ($64 million) to help Quebec's Bombardier Inc. develop a new passenger jet.

Yet some federalists can't resist spotlighting any bit of economic bad news in Quebec, hoping hard times will eventually erode the popularity that Bouchard consolidated with his passionate referendum campaigning last year.

Support for independence increased steadily in post-referendum opinion polls, peaking at 55 percent in June.

Since then, the trend has reversed. The latest monthly survey by the Montreal polling firm of Leger and Leger gave the federalist side a slight edge.

"It's clear that for Lucien Bouchard the honeymoon is over," said pollster Jean-Marc Leger. "People are looking for effective government, not more talk about the constitution."

Though bread-and-butter issues may be paramount for most Quebeckers, hard-liners in both the French-speaking majority and Anglophone minority have ensured a persistent nastiness in the political climate.

Parti Quebecois militants have successfully pressed for tougher enforcement of language laws that restrict the use of English on signs.

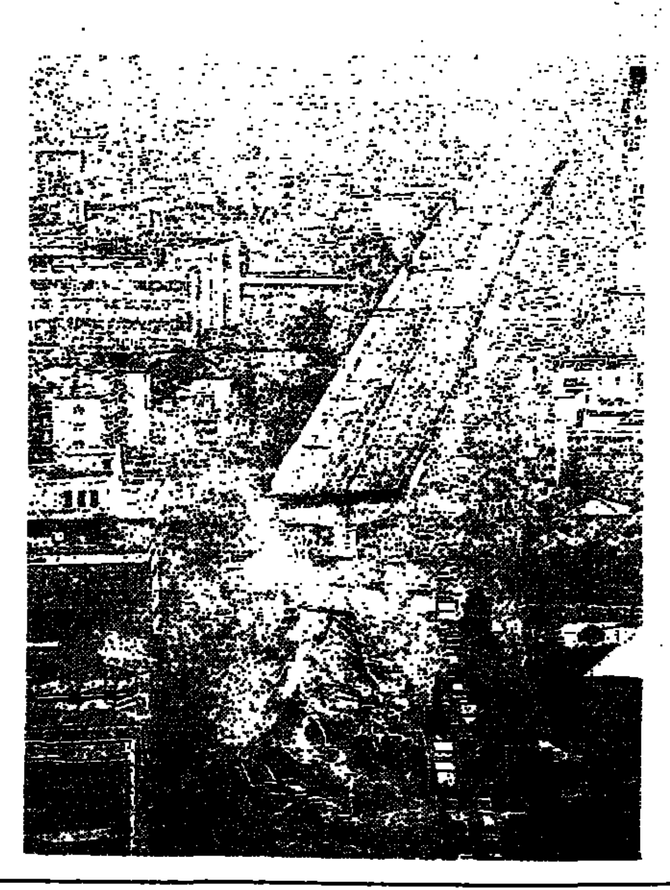
Meanwhile, an aggressive English-rights movement has arisen for the first time, staging protests and rallies. One of its leaders, Howard Galganov, plans to defy language laws at a store to be opened in November and has dared Bouchard to make him a political prisoner.

Though most Quebeckers speak at least a little of the other community's language, a deep gulf remains.

(AP)

Kobe Wakes to a Nightmare





KOBE, Japan (Archives Picture): Massive failure of the Hanshin Expressway shoved traffic to the side when single-column supports gave way at their bases. Excavators biting at the highway debris (above) removed the bulk of it within six days (right). When ambulances were forced to creep along in grid-locked traffic, local officials were criticized for not reserving some passable highways for emergency vehicles. Meanwhile owners of shops with broken plate-glass windows could take some comfort in a situation that would astound American storekeepers — an almost total lack of looting.

(Courtesy National Geographic)

Electronics Salesman Becomes Pioneer in Group Dog Walking

NEW YORK — It's barely 6:30 a.m. on a gray muggy day on Manhattan's patrician upper east side and 3-year-old Benji is out of sorts.

It's clear the minute he exits his Tudor-style high-rise. He shows none of the joie de vivre you come to expect from golden retrievers. His head slumps, and he lunges at fellow dogs.

At the other end of the leash is Jim Buck, pioneer in a field known as urban dog handling, principal of Jim Buck's school for dogs and all-around dog adviser to Manhattan's gentry.

"We are going to pat him, pat him, pat him. Talk to him, talk to him, talk to him," buck says. "We are going to teach him that sweetness is better than a chip on your shoulder."

But more than anything, Buck is going to walk him, walk him, walk him. Not the conventional kind of walks — one dog at a time, in a quaint dog park. Buck's walks are pack walks, 12 dogs at a time, five hours at a whack, on bustling Manhattan sidewalks at the height of the morning commute.

Twelve dogs of differing breeds, heeding their master, at one with their fellow dogs' moods and needs. That, says Buck, is the path to happy, well-adjusted and respectful hounds.

"It's an animal community. That's what it is. I just happen to be the head of it. I'm the top dog, as they say."

Home by home, in a sort of car-pool for canines, Buck gathers his class and, for the benefit of a guest walker, introduces each dog with an affectionate, encapsulating sound bite.

> ***"It's an animal community. That's what it is. I just happen to be the head of it. I'm the top dog, as they say."***

Chloe, a yellow lab: "A bit of a knucklehead, but that is the breed."

Flapjack, a chocolate lab: "Nothing but an erection on four legs."

Millie, another yellow lab: "Just as tough as they come, but honest. She is my sergeant-at-arms."

As the pack swells, Buck arranges the dogs according to temperament.

Rambunctious dogs get short leashes and inside positions, while the meeker students wind up with longer tethers and outside slots. The grown-up and even-keeled of the bunch serve as buffers between the more needy dogs.

Buck uses his legs to enforce an imaginary dividing line between the dogs on his right and left flanks, nudging them forward or backward, leftward or rightward as they stray.

"Packs of dogs should be joyous things, but when dogs first come in, it's a little like boot camp. You have to shape them up," says Buck.

Dog handling was a birthright for Buck, a self-described "Park Avenue brat" whose parents were scions of leading banking and shipping families.

Uncle James A. Farrell owned greyhounds and smooth-haired fox terriers; Uncle John J. Farrell bred Shelties and foxhounds; grandfather C.A. Buck raised American pointers, and Uncle Leonard Buck had a championship stable of cocker spaniels.

Buck entered the dog-show circuit early, taking one of James A. Farrell's terriers into a competition ring in Rowayton, Connecticut, at the age of 6.

He was in his early 30s, working as an electronics salesman, when he came across an Airedale mauling a German shepherd. With the rock in his hand, he hit the aggressor dog in the head, forcing its retreat.

"I wish someone had done that earlier," the Airedale's owner told Buck, and then proceeded to hire him as a trainer.

Through word-of-mouth and visibility, Buck built up his business, while working to persuade his parents that he was a bona fide dog professional rather than "just another kennel boy."

Many of his customers were his former prep-schoolmates who had blossomed into investment bankers and corporate lawyers.

> ***In blizzards and heat spells, every Monday through Friday, Buck is out with the dogs, though ever mindful of their well-being: in the winter, he walks on the sunny side of the street; in the summer, on the shady side.***

Their kids were clamoring for dogs, but they didn't know what breed to buy or the first thing about rearing them. Buck was there to advise and sort out their existential canine crises: one owner called late at night because her dog was eyeing her strangely. another phoned with the news that her dog had swallowed her ring.

Not only was it economically sensible for Buck to group-train his clients' dogs but, as he learned at the knee of his uncles and grandfathers, dogs that spend time around other dogs are more sociable and responsive. The goal was to create chemistry within a pack, as one might among a team of sled dogs or hunting hounds.

Buck also began peddling another radical notion: dog fitness — a direct challenge to the then-popular idea that dogs should be "robust" (read: pleasantly plump).

Buck, who is lean and has piercing eyes, is up at 4 a.m. without an alarm, and on the streets from 5 a.m. until after 10 a.m. The rest of the day looks like this: lunch at 2 p.m., paperwork and private lessons (for the owners, too) at 3 p.m., Scotch at 6 p.m., in bed by 7 p.m.

In blizzards and heat spells, every Monday through Friday, Buck is out with the dogs, though ever mindful of their well-being: in the winter, he walks on the sunny side of the street; in the summer, on the shady side.

It's 7:30 a.m., and the Manhattan tableau is unfolding. Men and women stride purposefully toward the subway; messengers on bikes and rollerblades weave through traffic; Fifth Avenue turns into yellow cab avenue.

Buck is trudging up an incline on 92nd Street; around him a wiggling wash of browns, creams, yellows, golds and blacks.

Buck begins to steer his 12 disciples across the street when, suddenly, one stops to do his business.

Retaining a tight grip on two fists of leashes arrayed neatly across his palms and fingers, Buck draws a piece of folded newspaper from his back pocket as if unsheathing a sword. In a single graceful movement, he bends down, sweeps the sidewalk and tosses the newspaper into a nearby trash can.

(AP)

Achievement in Promoting Sustainable Livelihood



UNDP sees the promotion of "sustainable livelihood," the formal and informal kinds of work people do to support themselves and their families, as linked to a host of other issues countries confront as they seek to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable human development. For example, refugees may flood their labor markets.

The "brain drain" may deprive them of vital knowledge and skills. Economic restructuring, privatization and new technologies may cut needs for workers. Internal conflicts, natural disaster and epidemics may disrupt economic activity. Customs may limit opportunities for women.

UNDP strives to help governments develop sustainable livelihood policies and programs that are innovative, flexible and deliberately inter-sectoral. It advocates that policies be formulated, and activities carried out, in collaboration with many government ministries, as well as in close cooperation with private entrepreneurs and nongovernmental organizations. And it urges support for both the formal and the informal sectors of a country's economy. Here are some examples.

Adaptive Strategies and Sustainable Livelihoods

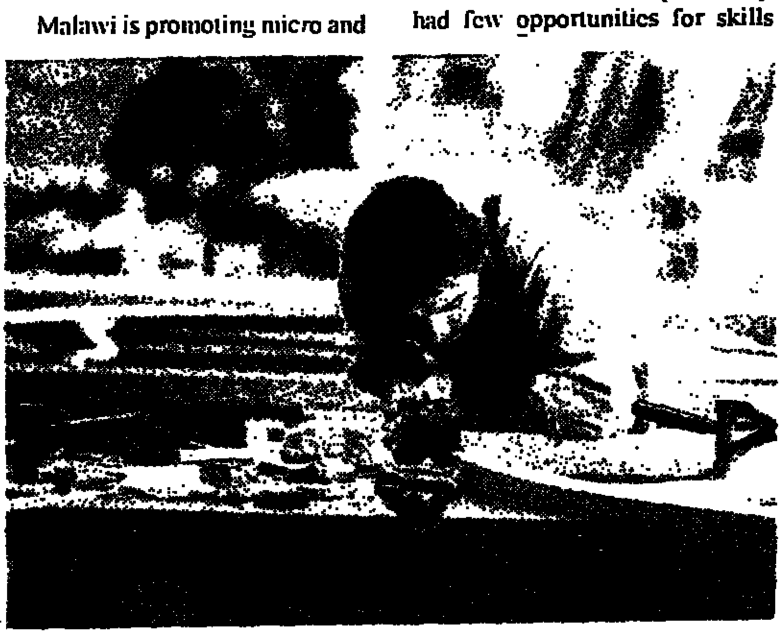
Field work in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe has demonstrated the great potential of an approach to supporting sustainable livelihoods that takes people's traditional knowledge and adaptive strategies as a starting point for policymaking. Information generated has been shared with policymakers, local research groups and participations communities (where it has started a self-sustaining process of empowerment). How this information can inform policymaking, project design and evaluation continues to be exploded with national and malnutritional agencies. (Duration: 1994-96; Partners: International Institute for Sustainable Development, local NGOs in Africa)

Gaza Strip: Employment Generation Program

Moving from emergency rehabilitation of infrastructure to development-oriented schemes, UNDP's program of assistance to the Palestinian people is undertaking activities to lessen the high level of unemployment and underemployment in the Gaza Strip while increasing family income, reducing social pressures, improving neighborhoods and implementing urgently needed public works programs. Financed by $22 million in donor country contributions, the program generated some 75,000 days of work in its first year of operation, at the same time increasing the business of private local contractors and supplies of construction materials. Nine parks have been completed and action begun on paving and tiling over 220,000 square kilometers of streets and sidewalks and rehabilitating and renovating 12 clinics and hospital wards and 19 educational facilities. Institutional capacities of the Palestinian Authority, municipalities and village councils have also been strengthened. (Duration: 1995-97; Partners: Palestinian Authority, Japan, Norway, Sweden, United States)

Malawi: Small Enterprise Development Program

Malawi is promoting micro and



small enterprise (SME) development to overcome the acute unemployment that contributes to widespread poverty. Its small enterprise development program is establishing a policy environment favorable for SMEs, strengthening institutions that provide relevant training and advisory services and improving producers' access to credit. It is also making appropriate technology available and enhancing marketing. Over 2,320 people have benefited from the training activities — nearly 60 percent women, who have previously had few opportunities for skills and business training. Among trained businesss owners interviewed, 91 percent were keeping written business records; 81 percent believe their business are now better managed; 61 percent believe their profits are higher. NGOs' and institution's capacities to provide training and advice for small-scale entrepreneurs in the informal sector have been strengthened. The government is now planning to replicate the activities throughout the country. (Duration: 1993-97; Partner: Malawi)

Afghanistan: Urban Rehabilitation Program

Despite security problems, employment for some 5,000 people has been generated through a program to improve living conditions in the fast-growing urban communities off war-torn Afghanistan. Since January 1995, roads and other facilities in three major cities have been repaired through eight urban infrastructure projects. Some 600,000 urban residents have benefitted from projects to provide safe water for domestic use. Repair or installation of waste disposal facilities has benefitted around 500,000 people. Close involvement with these activities has helped local personnels improve their capacities for longer-term rehabilitation. It has also made workers from different ethnic groups realize that cooperation is essential for lasting development. (Duration: 1995-96; Partners: Afghanistan; UN Center for Human Settlements)

Mexico: Support for Small and Medium-Size Enterprises

In Mexico, technical assistance and a revolving loan fund have helped develop more than 300 small and medium-sized firms that now employ some 5,200 workers. In addition to the revolving fund, financial resources have been provided for international consultants, international market studies and training abroad. The firms have been helped to maintain a competitive position, enter the export market, solve technical, environmental and management problems and develop new products. Over seven years more than 93 percent of 367 proposed projects have received assistance.

Fields covered include petrochemicals, food, metal working, textiles, footwear, handicrafts, furniture, jewelry and flower growing. Total yearly sales of the enterprises concerned are estimated at about $100 million. (Duration: 1988-96; Partners: Mexico, Organization of American States, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation).

(Courtesy the UNDP)

UN Humanitarian Aid Officials Request Help for Iraq



UNITED NATIONS — Three UN humanitarian agencies issued a joint statement, decrying the situation in Iraq and calling for urgent contributions to the UN relief effort for the Middle Eastern nation.

The heads of the United Nations Humanitarian Affairs Department, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN World Food Program (WFP) all deplored the "dismal" living conditions in which thousands of Iraqis live.

Some 4,500 children die of starvation and disease each month in Iraq UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy told a press conference here.

"Donor countries have contributed only $1.6 million of the 39.9 million-dollar" UN request "to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs in Iraq through the end of the year," according to Yasushi Akashi.

The head of the UN's Humanitarian Affairs Department also said only France and the Netherlands have responded to the UN's September 27 call for funding to help Iraq until the oil-for-food deal comes into force.

The oil-for-food deal refers to the much-delayed arrangement by which Iraq — under UN sanctions since the 1991 Persian Gulf war -- would be allowed to export oil in order to be able to import humanitarian supplies.

The oil-for-food deal was postponed after Saddam Hussein's troops rolled into internationally-controlled northern Iraq to support a Kurdish faction.

Akashi explained the weak response to the UN's appeal for funds by saying the deal would soon be in place, but added there were still some "stumbling blocks" that would have to be overcome.

WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini warned the situation would get worse with the onset of winter.

To meet the food needs of some 2.15 million highly vulnerable people, the WFP was to receive $19 million.

"War, economic sanctions, hyperinflation, unemployment and this year's 30 percent drop in crop production" are to blame for the worsening situation, according to the joint statement. *(AFP)*

Conditions in Moscow's Jails Abominable

MOSCOW — Prisoners are being held in horrific conditions in Moscow jails with frequent abuse of their rights, the head of a human rights organization said.

"Two hundred and eight people temporarily held in abominable conditions died this year in 17 prisons," Andrei Babushkin, head of a rights group called "The New House", told a press conference here.

The prisons in Moscow were the worst, he said, adding that there had been numerous cases of torture.

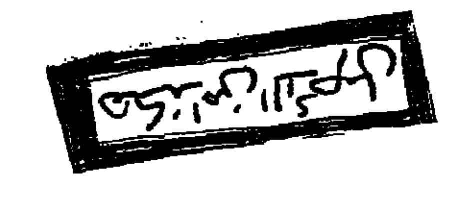
He cited one case of an actor Alexander Polianin who was awaiting trial but died on October 10 after being tortured. His relatives said he had died from his injuries, including having his ears cut off and the skin of his hands torn off.

The death certificate however gave breathing difficulties as the cause of death, Babushkin added, without saying why the actor had been arrested.

In the N1 and N2 prisons in the capital prisoners suffered from a lack of oxygen as an insufficient ventilation system had been installed. Prisoners had also been poisoned by fumes from chlorine thrown on the ground of the cells.

Babushkin said he would ask for the prison directors of the two jails to be fired.

Juveniles in the Matroskaya Tishina Prison, where 860 minors are held, are also being denied the right to education, and even though it can take 10 months for the case to come to court, no educational facilities have been provided. *(AFP)*



40 Years After Suez War: Mideast Still Boils, but Differently

CAIRO, Egypt — It's the eve of an American presidential election. The Middle East is in more than its usual turmoil, and the United States is pushing negotiations to keep tensions from boiling into armed conflict.

It may sound like today's world, but the year was 1956. The president seeking reelection was Dwight Eisenhower. And the turmoil that erupted on Oct. 29 was the Suez war.

Forty years later, the Arab-Israeli struggle drags on. But the Middle East chessboard has been turned a few times.

In an example of how times have changed, France was Israel's ally and chief arms supplier in 1956. Today, it is urging creation of a Palestinian state and is seen by Israelis as pro-Arab. Shimon Peres, later Israel's prime minister, was then an Israeli defense official who helped secure British and French collusion in Israeli's invasion of Egypt.

The war started after Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser took over the Suez Canal on July 26 and set up his own company to run it. He needed the canal to help finance building the Aswan High Dam, because Britain and the U.S. had reneged on pledges of financial support.

The seizure of the canal was a blow to the old colonial powers Britain and France, who had helped build it. And the United States saw it as a threat to world shipping.

Eisenhower, running for reelection on a peace platform, feared American voters would oppose a war that smacked of colonialism. He urged diplomacy first - and he definitely wanted no invasion before election day.

During a long, hot summer of meetings, France, Israel and Britain launched a plan to thwart Nasser. Israel would invade Egypt's Sinai, and the French and British would step in under the guise of protecting the Suez Canal. In the bargain, Europe would regain control of the canal, the main sea passage to Asia.

Israel invaded on Oct. 29. The next day, Britain and France issued an ultimatum, threatening to send their own troops unless Israel and Egypt withdrew their armies to 10 miles (16 km) from the canal.

There was no need for such a withdrawal, as Israeli troops had attacked elsewhere in Sinai for their own military ends. Still, Britain and France began bombing Egypt on Oct. 31. They invaded on Nov. 5.

The Soviet Union threatened to intervene. Eisenhower was furious. The United States pressured the British and French to withdraw in December. The Israelis withdrew the following March.

The second of five Arab-Israeli wars ended with an Egyptian death toll estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000. Israel lost 172 soldiers, Britain 16 and France 10.

For Britain, the canal's nationalization was a bitter blow, as its influence had already begun to wane after World War II. Prime Minister Anthony Eden didn't want to "appease" Nasser, as Britain had earlier done with Adolf Hitler. His goal was to topple the Egyptian leader.

Today, Egypt's most popular movie is "Nasser 56" - about the seizing of the canal - in which headlines from British dailies flash across the screen calling Nasser "Hitler on the Nile."

(AP)

SALANG, Afghanistan (October 9): Taleban militia move up a fully loaded multi-barrel rocket launcher to the newly opened front with fighters of ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostam in the Salang, north of Kabul. In the 12 days since the Taleban captured Kabul, Dostam remained neutral. The Uzbek warlord has now committed himself on the side of ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

(AFP PHOTO)

CIS Ministers Vow to Boost Tajikistan's Border Defenses

DUSHANBE — Defense ministers from nine ex-Soviet republics vowed to strengthen Tajikistan's borders at a meeting here Tuesday amid concern that the conflict in Afghanistan could spread.

A joint statement issued after the meeting said the participants "voiced concern about the situation in the region, which threatens the national interests and security of the Central Asian states in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)."

General Leonid Mayorov, the interim CIS chief of staff responsible for military cooperation, said the ministers "unanimously demanded help for Tajikistan to strengthen its borders, and that requires a series of emergency measures." He did not elaborate further.

Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov was among those attending the one-day conference in the Tajik capital.

The defense ministers of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Moldova were absent.

The CIS embraces all the ex-Soviet republics except for the three Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Earlier Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov had called on the CIS defense ministers to "use all available resources" to ensure stability along the southern border of the former Soviet Union, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

Referring to the conflict in Afghanistan, Rakhmanov said, "We cannot turn a blind eye to the hotbed of military and political adventures and instability in this region."

The Taleban Islamic militia's seizure of the Afghan capital, Kabul, late last month heightened security concerns in Russia and among the ex-Soviet Central Asian republics.

Islamic guerrillas based in northern Afghanistan have launched frequent cross-border raids into Tajikistan since Rakhmanov's forces ousted a coalition of Islamic and democratic forces in December 1992.

A cease-fire agreement signed in Tehran in 1994 has been repeatedly violated.

After the defense ministers' meeting, Rodionov visited units of the 6,800-strong Russian 201st motorized rifle division based in Tajikistan. He is due to meet border guards on the Tajik-Afghan frontier Wednesday. (AFP)

Japan Says Island Flap Should Not Jeopardise Ties With China

TOKYO — Japan and China wound up annual talks between their vice foreign ministers Tuesday with Tokyo saying it hoped ties would not be damaged by a territorial dispute, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

The official, who asked not to be named, said there was a "very frank exchange of views" in four main areas including the dispute over islands in the East China Sea along with Japan's view of historical issues.

"Both sides agreed it was useful and a good exchange of views," he said, adding the two sides also discussed overall bilateral issues, Japan-U.S. security issues and Japan's disposal of wartime chemical weapons left in China.

The official said Japan's Vice Minister Shunji Yanai and his Chinese counterpart Tang Jiaxuan reiterated their respective views on the islands, known as the Senkaku Group in Japanese and the Diaoyu Islands in Chinese.

"The Japanese side reiterated its hope that the issue would be calmly handled so that friendly relations would not be jeopardized," the official said, adding that Japan offered to make "further efforts" to cool the dispute.

"The Chinese side said that they had kept very calm and restrained in response to this issue," the official said.

Following a move by Japanese rightists to erect a lighthouse on one of the islands in July, Beijing has made diplomatic protests while activists from Taiwan and Hong Kong have staged protests in waters off the islands.

The two sides also discussed Japan's view on historical issues, frequently criticized as insensitive by China and other Asian countries subjected to Japanese military aggression during World War II.

"The Chinese side said that the views on history are closely linked to Japan-China friendship and should be properly dealt with," the official said.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto triggered protests in several Asian countries earlier this year when he visited the controversial Yasukuni war shrine in Tokyo, becoming the first Japanese premier to so in 11 years. (AFP)

MPs Stand Firm Behind Kaunda's Election Boycott

LUSAKA — Members of Parliament in former President Kenneth Kaunda's United National Independence Party (UNIP) stood firmly behind his decision to boycott Zambia's elections on November 18, final nominations showed Tuesday.

Just one of the party's 26 MPs, Johnson Jere, defied Kaunda's orders and nominated himself as an independent candidate.

The others all stand to lose their jobs and see UNIP — which dominated Zambian politics for 27 years — wiped out of the legislature.

Kaunda led UNIP into the election boycott because he was effectively barred from running for the presidency by a new law requiring candidates to be second-generation Zambians.

UNIP was the biggest opposition party in Parliament, holding 26 of the 150 elected seats.

President Frederick Chiluba's Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD), which ousted UNIP in 1991 elections, holds 121 seats.

The National Party (NP) held the remaining three seats, but lost two to defections and expulsions earlier this year.

NP leader Humprey Mulemba is one of five candidates for the presidential elections, which will be held on the same day as the parliamentary vote.

Mulemba, who is in his early sixties, has strong support in his home area of north western province.

He is a veteran politician who served as UNIP secretary general for many years under Kaunda and was later Zambia's high commissioner to Canada.

Analysts say he is unlikely to pose any threat to Chiluba as his support does not extend much beyond the provincial border.

The biggest challenge to Chiluba, 50, who is widely tipped to win reelection easily, is expected to come from dean Mungomba, the 43-year-old leader of the Zambia Democratic Congress (ZDC).

The texas-trained banker resigned early last year from a ministerial post in Chiluba's government to form his own party, and is believed to have developed a strong political base.

The two other opposition candidates are Akashmbatwa-Mbikusita Lewanika of the newly formed Agenda for Zambia Party (AZP) and the Maverick Chama Chakomboka, leader of the Movement for Democratic Process (MDP) whose nomination was accepted late Monday.

Lewanika, a Canada-trained economist in his late forties, has his roots in the conservative western province of Zambia.

He is of the Lozi Royal establishment and is expected to win support in his home area.

Chakomboka, from the copperbelt town of Luanshya, is a businessman and joker whose candidacy is not taken seriously by most people.

In the absence of any real challenger, the election is shaping up as a mere popularity poll for Chiluba, a former trade unionist who swept to power on a wave of support in 1991 when Kaunda bowed to multiparty democracy after years of one-party rule.

But Chiluba's popularity has been put to the test by austere economic reforms which the opposition says have left many Zambians poorer than before, and by persistent reports of corruption within his government.

(AFP)

Mayor of China's Capital Replaced in Major Reshuffle

BEIJING — The mayor of Beijing, who was tainted by last year's $2.2 billion corruption scandal in the capital, has resigned from his post, Xinhua reported Tuesday.

Li Qiyan "was resigned from the post of Beijing mayor at his request" and has been temporarily replaced by Jia Qinglin, the former party secretary of eastern Fujian Province, the news agency said.

The decision was made Tuesday at a meeting of the standing committee of the Tenth Beijing People's Congress, and the new appointment will probably become permanent within a year, according to sources in Beijing.

The Xinhua report said Li had been appointed to another post, but it gave no further details.

Li, 58, was mayor of Beijing in April 1994 when one of his vice mayors, Wang Baosen, committed suicide over investigations into a wide-ranging corruption scandal that was originally billed at $37 million.

The ensuing scandal, which was linked to the activities of a Hong Kong affiliate of the capital iron and steel works and a pyramid investment scheme, eventually brought down the powerful party secretary of Beijing, Chen Xitong.

Chen was stripped of his post in the Politburo — the first high-level communist official to be publically dismissed — and vice mayor Jin Renqing said in March that $2.2 billion had disappeared from the capital's coffers because of the scandal.

Also in March, Li admitted that he "bore some responsibility" for the scandal, but other officials said this responsibility was only in terms of leadership and not in personal corruption.

Although Li's removal was widely rumored when the scandal first broke, sources said he was kept on to ensure some continuity in the capital's administration and to complete investigations into the case.

His resignation comes a few months after the execution of the organizer of the Wuxi pyramid scheme, and weeks after the authorities confirmed that criminal charges "involving significant sums of money" had been brought against Zhou Beifang, the former head of the Hong Kong Steel Works, and two former officials in the Beijing government.

However, no criminal charges have been brought against Chen, who remains under house arrest and has apparently refused to cooperate in any of the investigations.

Jia, Li's 56-year-old replacement, also takes over Li's position within the Beijing Communist Party, and was appointed as vice party secretary of the capital by the party's central committee on Monday, Xinhua reported.

Born in Hebei Province, which surrounds the Municipality of Beijing, Jia worked as a technician in the First Ministry of Machine-Building Industry from 1962 to 1969. Chinese President Jiang Zemin was deputy director of the same ministry from 1962 to 1970. (AFP)

Malian Authorities Foil Coup Plot

BAMAKO — Malian authorities have recently foiled a military coup plot against the government of President Moussa Traore, press reports on Tuesday said, after state television gave sketchy details Monday.

The state-run Essor reported that "the president of the republic, the prime minister and members of government were among those targeted in an operation which was to begin Monday."

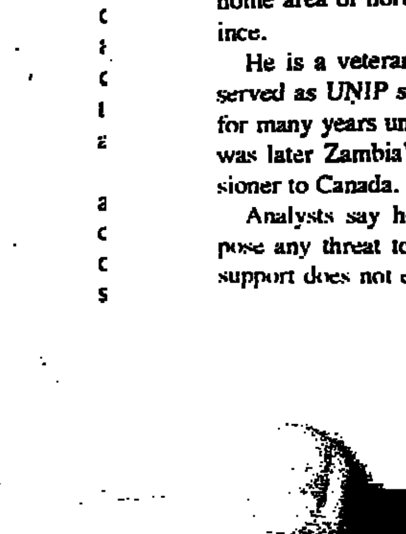
Late Monday, officials said in a broadcast statement that the authorities had arrested a group of uniformed men.

Without giving names, Essor reported that "half a dozen plotters, including non-commissioned officers and soldiers led by an officer" had been arrested.

It said the arrested suspects had given incriminating evidence against a former politician, who allegedly took part in the plan to eliminate the leadership by contributing funds worth between 1.5 and 2.5 million CFA francs (3,000 and 5,000 dollars) to the operation.

The MPR sees itself as the successor of Moussa Traore's former ruling Malian People's Democratic Union.

(AFP)





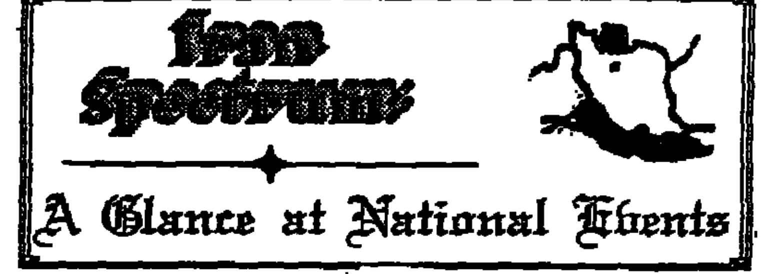



A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU., Oct. 31; ABAN 10, 1375; JAMADIAL-THANI 18, 1417



A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

World News

Wednesday, October 23

President Receives Indian Vice President



President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received the Indian Vice President K.R. Narayan.

Iran Welcomes Active Presence of France in Mideast

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati welcomed active presence of France in the middle east and the Persian Gulf regions saying that this presence will be a hurdle in the way of U.S. hegemony.

2nd Meeting of Deputy FMs of Caspian Littoral States Starts Work



Caspian Sea is the common heritage of its littoral states and should serve a vivid example of peace, friendship, and cooperation among the countries bordering it, Foreign Minister, Ali Akbar Velayati stressed here Wednesday.

Iraqi Kurds Expected to Announce Cease-Fire

The two warring factions in northern Iraq were expected to announce a formal cease-fire agreement, source close to the just-concluded U.S. talks said.

Thursday, October 24

UN Envoy to Tajikistan Lauds Iran's Peace Efforts



UN Secretary General's Envoy to Tajikistan Gerd Dietrich Merrem in a press conference lauded Iran's efforts to peacefully settle Tajikistan's crisis.

President Rafsanjani Receives Romanian Minister

Romanian Minister of industries Alexander Stanescu



told Iran's President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani that the eleventh joint commission of Iran and Romania held in Tehran had arrived at very fruitful results.

Crowds Sets Fire to Businesses, Vehicles, After Police Shooting

A rock and bottle-throwing crowd of several hundred people set fire to businesses and vehicles and looted stores after police finally shot a black man during a traffic stop Thursday evening. At least 11 people were injured, including two officers.

Doctors Hope to Get Organs From Brain-Dead Soldiers

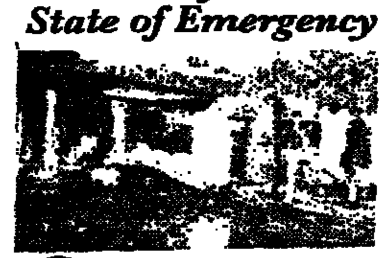
Japanese doctors are discussing plans to receive organs from brain-dead patients at U.S. military hospitals in Japan, a newspaper reported Thursday.

Friday, October 25

U.S. Support for Anti-Human Rights Taleban Scandalous

Substitute Friday Prayer Leader, President hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in his first sermon told the congregated worshippers: *The stand taken by Washington on the (Afghan) issue is worst of all, as the U.S. slams the whole world in the name of human rights, but you can see which group it is supporting in Afghanistan, which is a disgrace to the U.S.*

U.S. City Enters State of Emergency



The police chief of this riot-torn southern city declared a state of emergency amid tense calm after the fatal shooting of a black motorist by a white police officer.

Iran's Only Intervention in Kurdish Affair, Humanitarian Aid to Refugees

The Kurdish Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader, Jalal Talebani described any accusation of Iranian forces involvement in recent clashes in Iraqi Kurdistan as false, saying that Iran's only involvement was to rescue hundreds of thousands of refugees by providing them shelter.

Nazarbayev Emphasizes Promotion of Ties With Iran

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said that his government attached special significance to its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Saturday, October 26

Iran Frees 150 Iraqi POWS Unilaterally

Some 150 Iraqi prisoners of war were unilaterally released by Iran on Saturday at the proposal of the head of POWS Commission and approval of the Leader of Islamic Revolution and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Grand Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

Battle Between Europe, U.S. May Develop Over UN Posts

In a sign of European discontent over the U.S. refusal to pay its UN bills, Denmark is considering a bid to out the American head of the UN Development Program since Washington is no longer the major contributor.

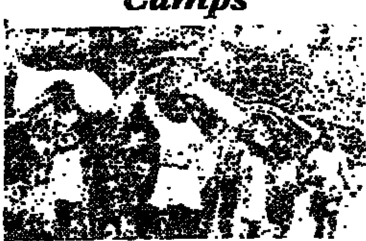
Syria, Russia Slam Planned Israeli Oil Drilling on Golan

Syria fiercely criticized Israeli plans to drill for oil on the Golan Heights, seized from Damascus in the 1967 war, and accused the Zionist state of a 'dangerous escalation'.

Enemy Plans to Destroy Bosnian's Cultural Identity After Failure to Wipe Out Its Existence

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said here Saturday night that the enemies who have failed to wipe out the Bosnian Muslims, now plan to destroy their cultural identity.

Refugees Injured, Take Flight After Attacks on Zairean Camps



Tens of thousands of refugees were Saturday fleeing in panic after an attack on their camp north of the eastern Zairean town of Goma in which 20 people were injured, aid worker said.

Sunday, October 27

Pope Resumes Duties With Mass in St. Peter's

Nearly three weeks after surgery, Pope John Paul II on Sunday resumed his pastoral duties, presiding over a service at St. Peter's basilica to mark Christian unity.

Some 10,000 Rwandan Refugees Return From Zaire

An estimated 10,000 Rwandan and Zairean refugees fleeing violence in eastern Zaire crossed the border into Rwanda on Sunday, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

Bulgerians Vote in presidential Poll

Bulgerians began voting Sunday in presidential elections expected to deliver a blow to the former communists whose regime has plunged the country into an economic crisis.

Monday, October 28

Chief of Pakistani Opposition Party Arrested

Qazi Hussain Ahmed, the chief of Pakistan's Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Party, was arrested as his supporters fought police in a bid to march to the National Parliament, a party spokesman said.

Jet Bombs Taleban Frontline North of Kabul

A jet bomber from the forces of northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam attacked the Taleban religious militia frontline north of Kabul, causing light casualties, witnesses said.

Tuesday, October 29

Four Killed in Bomb Attack in Turkey

A bomb exploded outside a police station in a town where Kurdish separatists are active, killing three policemen and the woman carrying the device, sources there said.

Yeltsin Cancels Working Meetings for Heart Tests

Doctors have cancelled all Russian President Boris Yeltsin's meetings for the next week to carry out routine tests in the last stage of preparations for his heart surgery.

Regional Afghan Conference Opens in Tehran

A two-day regional Conference on Restoring Peace in Afghanistan opened in the Iranian capital with the absence of key players Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the Afghan factions.

Local News

Wednesday, October 23

Majlis, Government Fully Support the Agriculture Sector

Head of the Majlis Agriculture Committee, Abdul-Ghaffar Shija told *Tehran Times* that both the Majlis and the government wholeheartedly support the agricultural sector and would leave no stone unturned for the development of Agriculture in the country.

Speaker: Social Prosperity Rests on Youth

Addressing an audience at a ceremony commemorating Martyr Hossein Fahmideh as a unique example in history and other martyred students, Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri said that the society's prosperity rests on the healthy growth of the youth who could then positively contribute to the building up of a healthy society.

Thursday, October 24

President: Basij Values Should Be Remembered Forever



President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani appreciated the worthy role of the Basij (Volunteer Mobilization Forces) during the Sacred Defense and said that the values of Basijis should be remembered as a precious jewel forever.

Friday, October 25

Commitment to Islamic Ideals, Best Solution to Cultural Assault

Member of the public Culture Council and the Youth Supreme Council, Ali Qaemi, said that the people's commitment to Islamic ideals is the best solution to Western cultural assault.

Saturday, October 26

Appropriate measures in Social Security Sector Great Service to nation



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, at the inaugural ceremony of the fourth social security congress on Saturday, said that the appropriate scientific and expert measures taken in the social security sector are a great service to the Iranian people.

Sunday, October 27

Impeachment Petition Submitted to Majlis

The petition for impeaching the Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati, signed by some 22 Majlis deputies, was submitted to Majlis Presidential Board on Sunday.

Monday, October 28

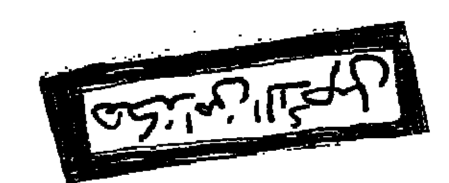
President Attends Book-Week Inaugural Ceremony

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, at the inaugural ceremony marking the fourth annual Book Week (Oct. 28-Nov. 3), underlined the need for removing the obstacles in the way of publishing books. He said that going to extremes on book evaluation is harmful and repulsive act.

Tuesday, October 29

Afghanistan Conference Opens

With participation of those regional countries which are concerned with Afghanistan crisis, a regional conference started work in Tehran.

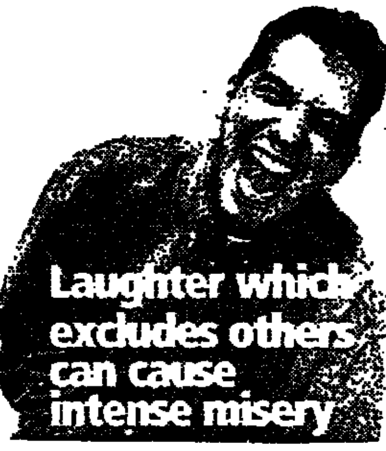


That Funny Feeling

Part 2

Laughter in the Dark — When the Joke's on You

There's a dark, cruel side to humor, too: not all laughter is life-enhancing or stress-reducing. Being an outsider — the butt of



people's jokes — can be very unpleasant. Recently, executive Gail Steele sued her employees because she claimed that she had suffered post-traumatic shock syndrome after a strippagram wearing an elephant's trunk attached to his G-string had handcuffed her and carried her off over his shoulder.



Humans are intensely social. We have evolved complex behaviors to help us survive more efficiently in groups. It has been suggested that both language and consciousness developed because they greatly improved our ancestors' social skills. If we want to understand what laughter is really about, we have to look at its social role.

Mahadev Apte, a cultural anthropologist at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, says: "Laughter occurs when people are comfortable with one another. The more laughter, the more bonding within the group." Wanting to be in a group, rather than a despised outsider, could explain why laughter can sometimes be so contagious — for example when teenager get the giggles.

Giggles are interesting. The most severe recorded case occurred in Tanganyika (now Tanzania) in 1962, when an epidemic of laughter among schoolgirls lasted for six months, and eventually their school had to be closed down.

But laughter isn't just a matter of being in with the in-crowd. We also laugh when we are embarrassed or uncomfortable. The reason for that, suggests Lawrence Mintz, a cultural historian at the University of Maryland, is that laughter also acts as a way of appeasing someone more powerful than ourselves. So if you feel you've committed some social gaffe — for example dressed up at a party when everyone else has dressed down — the way to stop people laughing *at* you is to get them to laugh *with* you. However the formula for accomplishing that is still at the edge of scientific understanding.

(Courtesy the Focus)

Laughter helps to slow down the heart rate as well as reducing blood pressure.



The Laughter Battle of the Men & Women

Not surprisingly, given the social role of laughter, men and women tend to do it differently. Until quite recently, the general view of (largely male) psychologists was that women had little or no sense of humor.

Studies regularly found that when it comes to getting jokes of the "Irishman-Englishman-and-Scotsman" variety, women performed much worse than men. But as Dr Jason Rutter of the Department of Sociology at the University of Salford points out, there are intriguing similarities between the way men and women tell jokes and the way they're "wired" for sex.

"The classic male stand-up-comedian style of joke has a single climax," he says. "The pleasure is in the climax — not in the development of the joke or quality of observation. Females, on the other hand, tend to replace jokes with humorous moments; there isn't so much a single punch line, more linked humorous peaks."

Ruby Wax is a good example, as this excerpt from a recent show reveals: "I'm depressed. I gotta get something to eat. It's OK, it's been clinically proven that I'm orally fixated [laughs]. I have to carry a card around with me that says if you find me outside your home in a coma, put chicken in my mouth immediately [laughs]. Or potato salad — I like that, too. My mother had to ram a cigarette between my lips to get me off her breast." And so it goes on — a barrage of funny lines, but no punchline per se.

So what are the differences between men and women when it comes to laughter? Professor Robert Provine of the University of Maryland has been looking at this question for some time. "Jokes don't have much to do with laughter, whichever of the sexes is involved," he says. "In fact, most laughter seems to be caused by rather banal remarks." One of the biggest hits of the 1200 pre-laugh comments recorded by his group was: "You don't have to drink just buy us drinks." Not exactly a classic but, as Provine observes, "it made everyone in the group feel good and that's what counts."

Entertaining in Style

Coffee Cream Cake

You will need ....

- 6 oz. butter
- 6 oz. castor sugar
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 6 oz. self-raising flour

For the coffee syrup:

- 8 oz. sugar
- ¾ pint water
- 3 tablespoons coffee essence

For the decoration:

- ½ pint double cream
- few drops vanilla essence
- walnut halves

Preparation time
25 minutes

Cooking time 3
45-50 minutes

Oven setting
375°F; gas mark 5

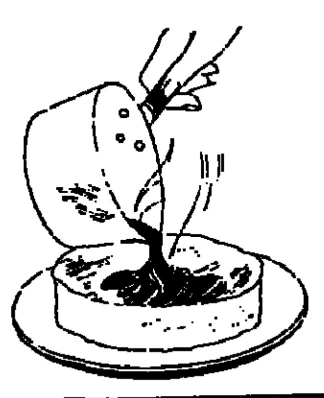
Grease an 8-inch cake tin and line base with a circle of greased greaseproof paper. Cream butter and sugar together until light and creamy. Gradually beat in eggs, adding one tablespoon of flour with the last addition of egg. Fold in remaining flour. Turn into prepared tin and bake in a fairly hot oven for 45-50 minutes.

Make the coffee syrup by dissolving sugar in water over a low heat. Remove from heat, add coffee essence. Stand cake on a deep serving plate, pierce all over with a skewer and pour over coffee mixture (*see Quick Tip below*). Leave to soak for at least 12 hours.

Whip cream and a few drops of vanilla essence until just stiff. Cover top and sides with cream and decorate with walnut halves.

Serves 10.

QUICK TIP



It is essential to pour the hot coffee syrup over the cake whilst it is still warm otherwise the syrup is not easily absorbed.

QUIZ

Can You Read a Woman's Mind?

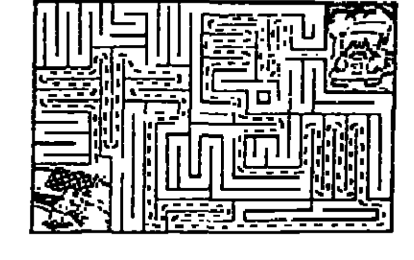
If you want to find out how a woman thinks, you had better brush up on how her mind works. This quiz will tell you how. See if you can separate fact from fallacy, truth from teasing. Tick whichever you think is right.

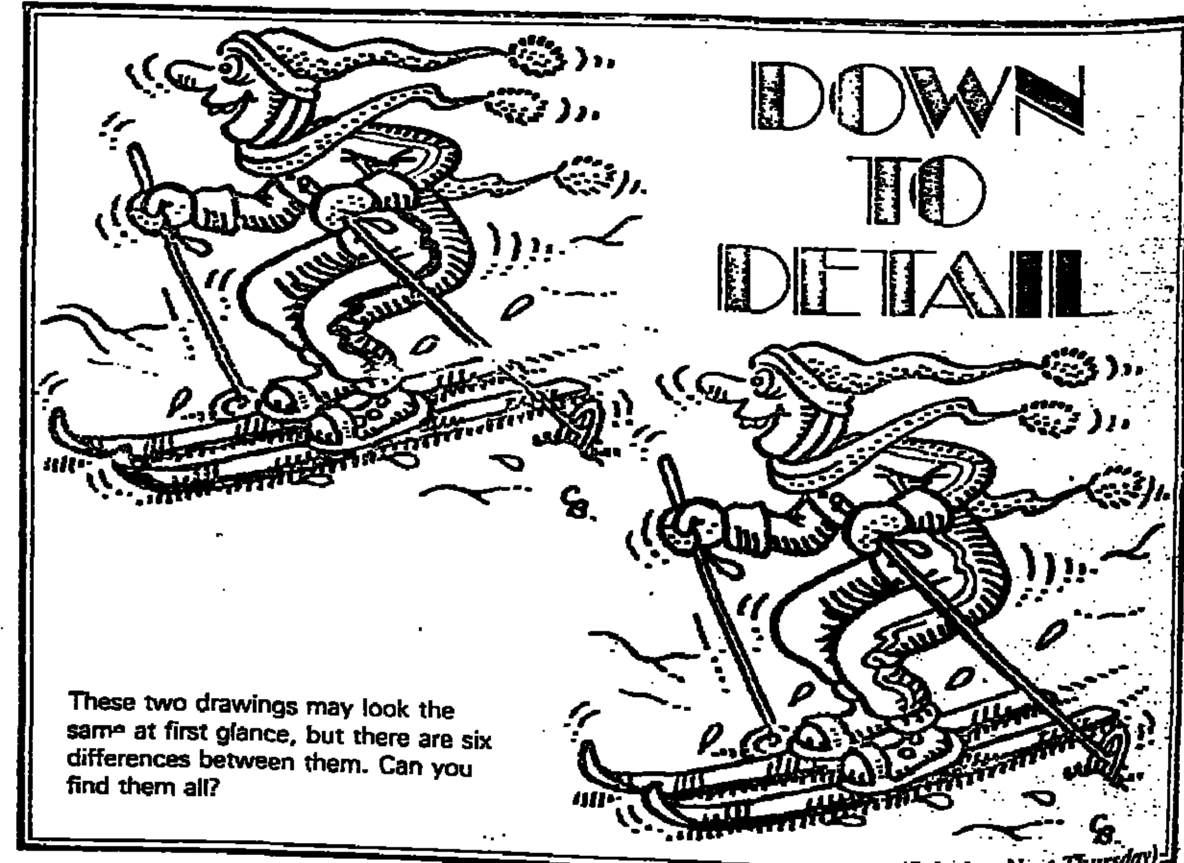
1. **Women can and usually do talk faster.**
2. Women are more fearful of pain.
3. Women are wiser in matters of investment.
4. Women are not self-centered as men.
5. Women do not listen as well as men.
6. Women are not prone to interrupt conversations.
7. Women change their minds more often.
8. Women are more accident-prone than men
9. Women drivers have more car accidents.
10. Women do not have as great a sense of well-being.
11. Women's ears cannot pick up high-pitched sounds.
12. Women have a wider range of interests.

Answers:

1. **True.** Men's vocal cords are bigger thus limiting the speed with which they can talk.
2. **False.** Both sexes are equal in their fear of pain.
3. **True.** Women avoid gambles and tend to look for "value received".
4. **False.** Women spend more time on their personal appearance and with their own thoughts.
5. **True.** Women are too busy thinking of what they are going to say next.
6. **False.** Women interrupt more.
7. **True.** There is scientific evidence to support the old statement, "It's a woman's prerogative to change her mind".
8. **True.** Research shows women to be more accident-prone.
9. **False.** When behind the wheel of a car, however, men tend to be more accident-prone.
10. **False.** Men are constantly stimulated by a need for personal attainment and recognition, which produces a restlessness. Thus, women are more capable of a sense of satisfaction and happiness.
11. **False.** Women can hear notes of higher pitch.
12. **False.** Men score higher for their range of interest.

(Courtesy the Sterling Paperbacks)





(Solution Next Thursday)

Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: Slovakia

LABOR OF PATIENCE

The West Slovakia Museum in Trnava holds more than ninety examples of the fruits of monastic labor, mostly dating from the baroque period. Convent nuns made them as alter decorations, or as portable items for collective or individual worship.

Tehran Times Service

The term monastic (cloister) work, denotes a technique utilizing "polion" decoration, and included the small pendant or portable objects in a raised, layered pattern. The relic was framed in "polion" to house the remains of martyrs, so the decoration was not strictly artistically inspired. In Slovakia, they first appeared in the 17th century and flourished for the next hundred years. Production began to dwindle only in this century, when they continued to be produced, but with much less artistic effort.



St. Ambrose

CENTERS OF PRODUCTION

The veneration artifacts made in convents were used predominantly as gifts, the recipients of which might be church dignitaries, family members and friends. Very often they were commissioned. They were often placed on sale by sites of pilgrimage, etc. However, most were made for use in church. The gold and silver elements embellished the alterpiece. Households often held an assortment of these objects of veneration.

Today it is extremely difficult to say where they were made. They enjoyed enormous popularity. Many of them came from Rome, and the painted motifs were often replicas of printed patterns. The most popular motifs, concepts and techniques of application were passed on from one convent to another.

Though they were made anonymously, convents of the orders of St. Clara, St. Elisabeth, the Ursulines and the English Virgins in Bratislava and Trnava, are known to have been centers of production.

The origins of the collection in the West Slovakia Museum are varied. Part of the collection was transferred from the former Osvald Museum, and the rest was purchased from S.C. Parrak and other collectors.

RELIGIOUS THEMES

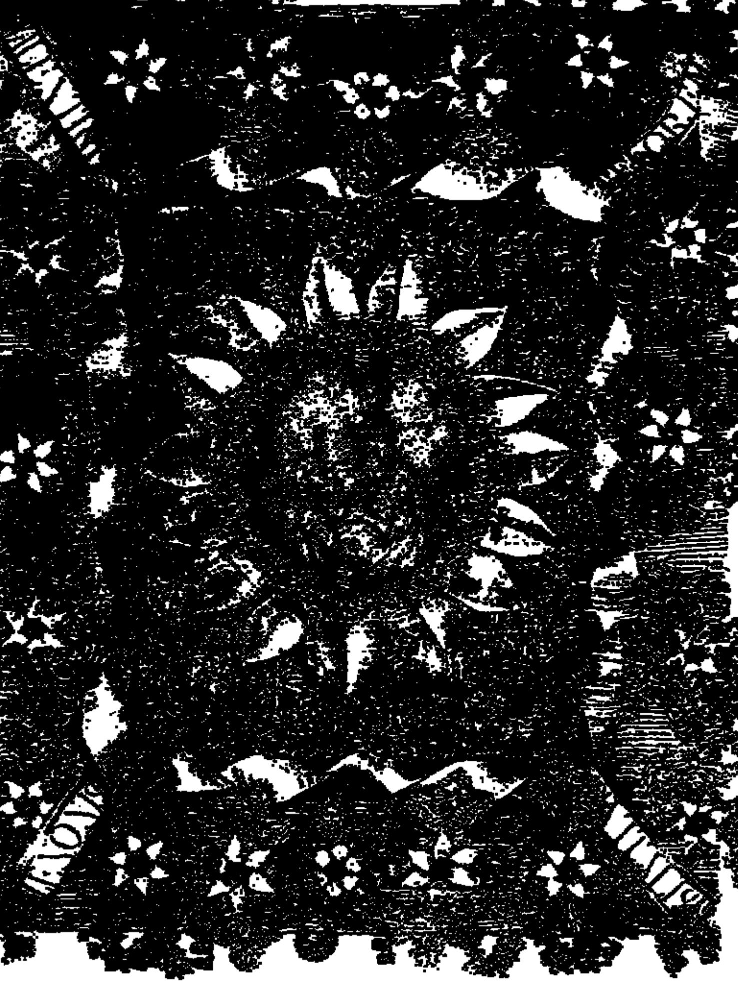
The inspiration for such works followed religious themes. Scenes from the life of Chirst often employed the motif of the Infant Jesus as the Infant of Prague, with the lamb of God, or in nativity scenes. The popular motif of the Good Shepherd recurs in three works. The suffering of Christ is depicted in one scene of the Crucifixion and in two Veraicons.

A third of the works in the collection depict Marian scenes. The theme of the Virgin and Child became popular in the 4th century and has continued to this dav.



Veraikon

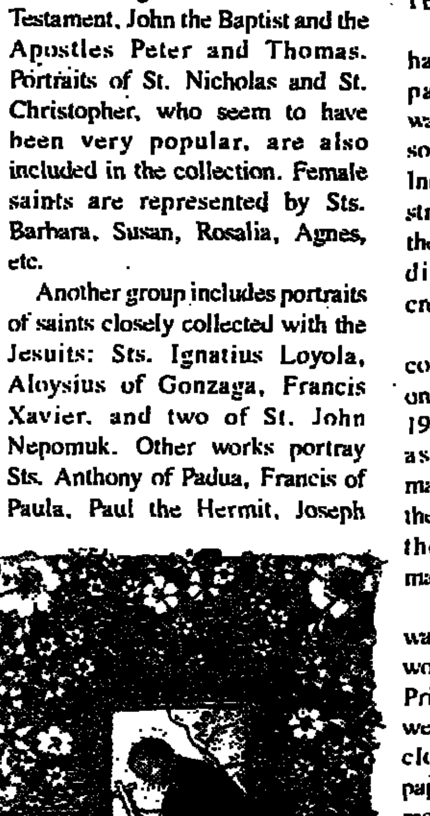
Works in the collection were influenced by originals found in places of pilgrimage or in famous works of art. Three works show St. Ann with the young Mary; one scene portrays the Annunciation, and the motives of the Pieta and the Crowning of Mary appear twice. Twenty-seven works have hagiological scenes. They



Agnus Dei

introduce figures from the New Testament, John the Baptist and the Apostles Peter and Thomas. Portraits of St. Nicholas and St. Christopher, who seem to have been very popular, are also included in the collection. Female saints are represented by Sts. Barbara, Susan, Rosalia, Agnes, etc.

Another group includes portraits of saints closely collected with the Jesuits: Sts. Ignatius Loyola, Aloysius of Gonzaga, Francis Xavier, and two of St. John Nepomuk. Other works portray Sts. Anthony of Padua, Francis of Paula, Paul the Hermit, Joseph



St. Aloysius of Gonzaga

Calasanz, and John of God, founder of the Hospitaller Order.

The motif of the Lamb of God (Agnus Dei), is included in a group of symbolic depictions. The motif symbolizes sacrifice and resurrection and has been used since the first century A.D. Wax disks from the remnants of an Easter candle, impressed with the figure, and blessed by the Pope, were believed to have the power of averting disasters. Medallions with the Lamb of God are among the most ancient centerpieces of convent works, and their creators named the wax disks Agnus Dei.

TECHNIQUES

More than thirty monastic works have a central motif, usually painted on parchment in watercolors or oil, but which were sometimes finished in pastel or Indian ink. Untrained painters who strove to capture facial features of the patron saint only exceptionally displayed unusual talent or creativity.

Paintings were very often colored. Colored prints took hold only very gradually, and since the 19th century, prints have appeared as independent motives. As machine reproduction is obvious in these compositions, we may put them in the category of machine-made relics.

The ancient technique of collage was employed in some monastic work in the mid 18th century. Prints served as a background, and were decorated with pieces of cloth, embroidery, or colored paper motives. Sometimes, a small motif of a halo or a crest, executed in a different material, surmounted the picture. Occasionally the original print was so overdecorated that only the head or limbs of the saint could be seen.



St. Francis Xavier

Fascinating Facts

A Cat That's at Home in the Water

Domestic cats love fish, but most get theirs out of a can. In Asia a stealthy predator twice the size of a house cat often crouches on a streamside ledge, peers fixedly at the water, lunges, and—with a swipe of its paw—flings up a finny feast and catches it at midair.

The fishing cat (*Felis viverrina*) is one felid that seems to love water, living amid streams and marshes of Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and parts of Indonesia. Its secretive ways probably help keep it safe from poachers.

The cat's fur is layered, with a luxurious inner blanket next to its skin to keep it warm and dry. Growing through this protective lining, a second layer of longer hairs forms the external coat.

Partly webbed front paws boost the cat's swimming prowess. Besides preying on fish and other aquatic life such as crabs and mollusks, these aggressive hunters, which may weigh more than 30 pounds, also bring down land animals larger than themselves: goats, calves, even dogs. (Courtesy of *National Geographic*, October 1993.)

Travelogue

The Great Barrier Reef

Tehran Times Service

The Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, Australia is one of the most spectacular sights you'll see anywhere. This 2000 km chain of coral reef is the largest in the world. The entire reef system starts way out in Torres Strait and stretches down the Queensland Coast.

The visual splendor of this underwater paradise is hard to describe. It must be seen.

There are over 400 species of coral, 1500 species of fish and thousands of other unique forms of life. The various colors and the sheer variety of creatures make for a very striking and absorbing sight, whether you're looking through a glass-bottomed boat or through a pair of diving goggles.

Through the reef there are various islands scattered like a handful of flowers thrown on the water. Green, lush and tropical, the islands are the pride of Queensland's beautiful coast and beckon you to their inviting shores.

IDYLLIC ISLAND RESORTS

Hamilton Island is the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. The island offers stylish accommodation from the luxury hotel rooms of Hamilton Towers to the deluxe self-contained apartments and private villas.

There are organized scenic excursions, places to shop, and a choice of 8 restaurants, a farm and a fauna park.

You will love **Dunk Island.** The island's charm is its tropical plantation-style atmosphere, complete with high ceilings and slow moving fans. Surrounded by rainforests on three sides, it has some of the country's best kept gardens and features Mt. Koo-tal-oo, resplendent with its lush green jungle and shell-covered beaches.

Lizard Island is for divers, fishing enthusiasts and anyone who appreciates the value of unspoiled natural beauty. The 50-minute trip to the island from Cairns is remarkable, passing over untouched cays, islets and virgin tropical forests.

Don't miss **Green Island**, a true coral cay. The coral reefs are teeming with marine life and make an interesting day trip. The underwater observatory here gives you a spectacular fish eye-view of life under the ocean waves.

Magnetic Island is another popular spot for tourists. The rugged headlands and historic forts give this island an unusual character. Of course you can indulge in all the usual water activities.

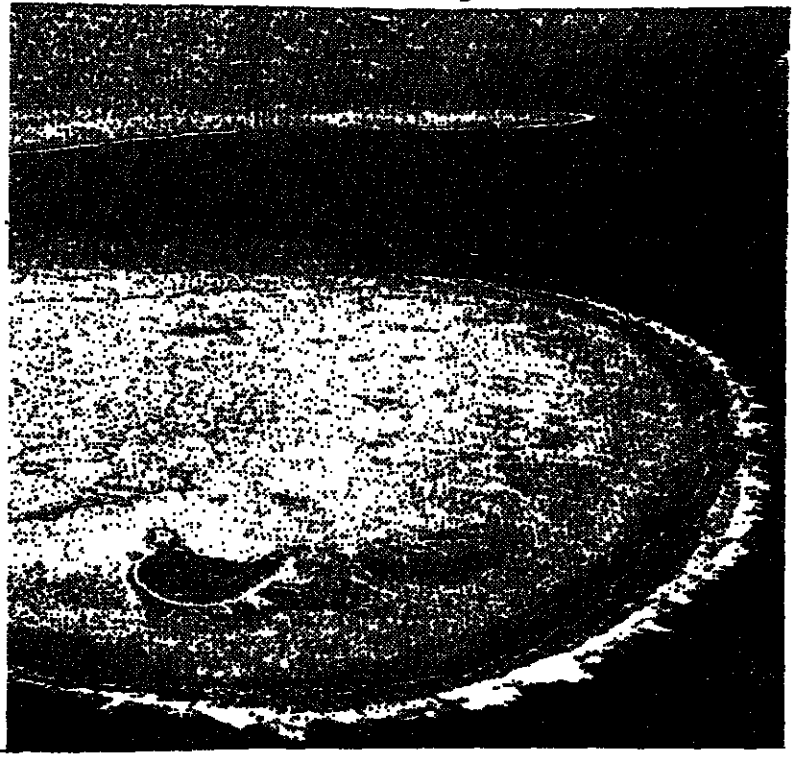
Further south, off the coast at Hervey Bay, is **Fraser Island**, the biggest sand island in the world. The island is absolutely beautiful and famous for its fresh water lakes, colored sands, tangled rainforests and endless beaches.

The Whitsunday Islands feature more than 100 islands and many of them are well-developed tourist resorts.

Each island has its own particular charm and character, but they share one objective: to make you as happy and relaxed as possible.

Lindeman Island was the first to open as a resort. Surrounded by almost 800 heactares of mountainous national park, the resort today offers night tennis, swimming pool and a six-hole golf course with beautiful views of the Whitsunday Passage.

Brampton Island has a reputation for serenity, offering guests an unhurried, casual and intimate ambience. Attractions include a miniature barrier reef just off the main beach, teeming with life and a family of semi-tame kangaroos.



A view of the Great Barrier Reef.

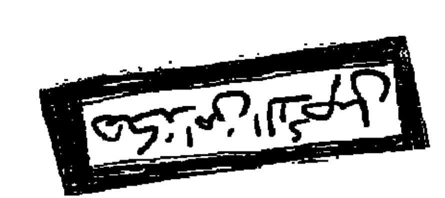
Hayman Islands is one of the world's most spectacular resorts.

Accommodation on Hayman includes a selection of penthouse suites with magnificent views of the Whitsunday Passage.

For exquisite dining experience, Hayman employs some of Australia's finest chefs. There is a choice of six individually themed restaurants to suit the demands of the most discerning palate.

Whether relaxing by azure pools, sailing or scuba diving in the cyrstal clear waters, Hayman is the ultimate in island living.

At **Hook Island** you can take a closer look at the coral and its inhabitants through the island's excellent underwater observatory and at Dent Island you can view the Coral Art Display featuring a number of impressive shells and corals.



TODAY IN HISTORY

1963 - Britain suspends aid to Indonesia.

1986 - U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz accuses Soviet Union of what he calls brutal and profoundly repressive treatment of its people.

1988 - Former Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos pleads innocent in New York to racketeering charges.

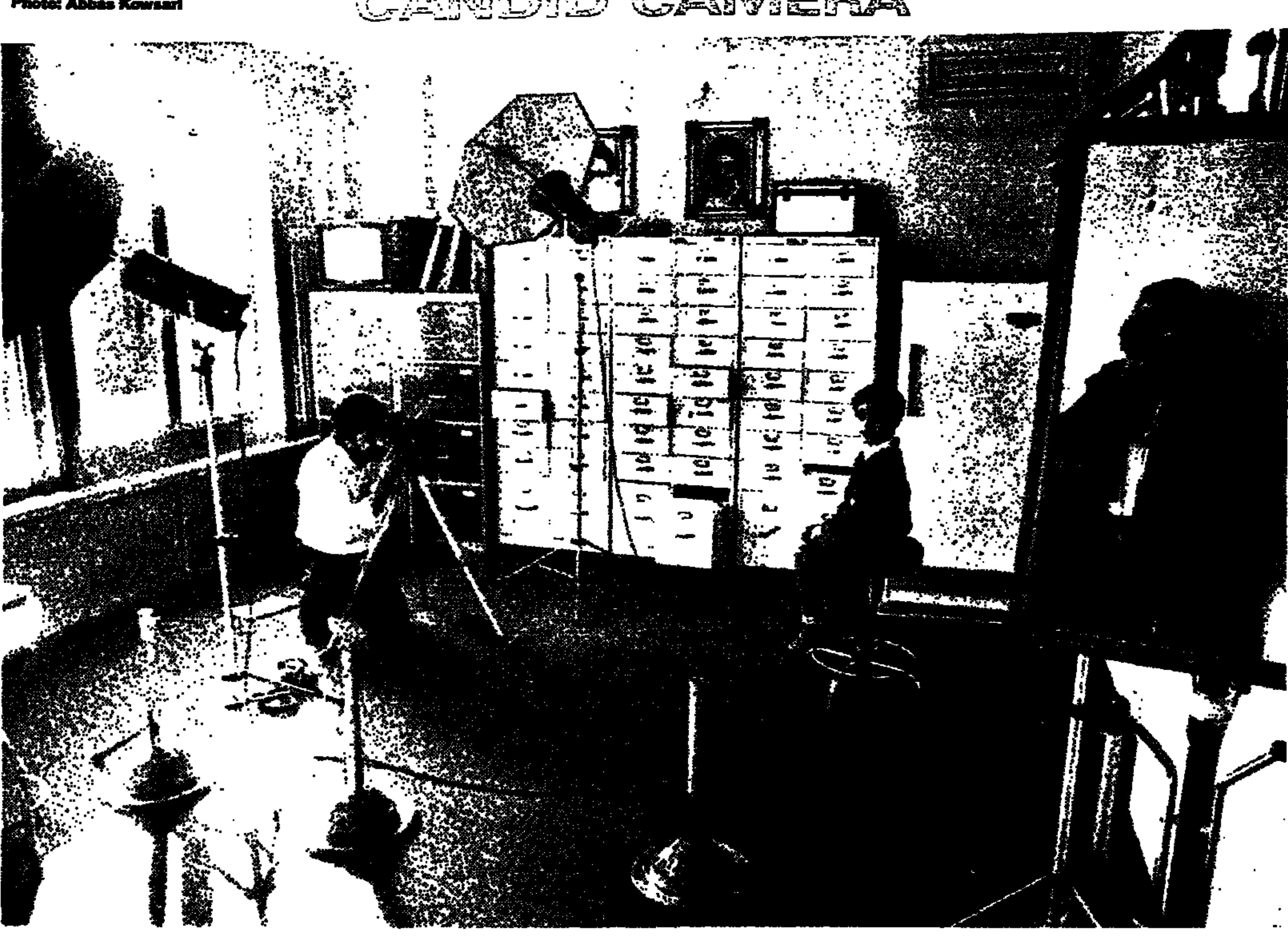
1989 - One day after a rebel attack on the Defense Ministry compound, bombs explode in the San Salvador offices of two organizations the rightist Salvadoran government considers guerrilla fronts. Eight are killed and more than thirty wounded.

1993 - Pledging not to resort to force, President Boris Yeltsin's government instead blasts high-decibel rock and rap music at defiant hard-liners barricaded inside parliament.

1994 - Government forces handed Serbs their worst defeat in 2 1/2 years of war, pushed ahead threatening a supply route south of Sarajevo and Bosnian Serb-held towns in the northwest.

CANDID CAMERA

Photo: Abbas Kowsari



TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1963 - Army coup in South Vietnam, President Ngo Dinh Diem is assassinated.

1975 - Chinese troops ambush Indian security patrol along India's northern border, kill four men in first fighting flareup in eight years.

1977 - Amsterdam police announce release of kidnapped Dutch millionaire Maurits Caransa.

1987 - Top leader Deng Xiaoping resigns from governing body of China's Communist Party in effort to allow his reform-minded proteges to consolidate power.

1989 - After travel restrictions are lifted, hundreds of East Germans throng to the West German Embassy in Prague seeking passage to the West. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega ends a 19-month truce with U.S.-backed Contra rebels.

1993 - In the worst clashes since Russians were drawn into Georgia's civil war, Russian soldiers killed several rebels trying to oust Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

1994 - Arab, Israeli and Western leaders agree to form commercial institutions to capitalize on peace.

Short Story

A Canary for One

By D. H. Lawrence

The train passed very quickly a long, red stone house with a garden and four thick palm-trees with tables under them in the shade. On the other side was the sea. Then there was a cutting through red stone and clay, and the sea was only occasionally and far below against rocks.

"I bought him in Palermo," the American lady said. "We only had an hour ashore and it was Sunday morning. The man wanted to be paid in dollars and I gave him a dollar and a half. He really sings very beautifully."

It was very hot in the train and it was very hot in the *lit salon* compartment. There was no breeze came through the open window. The American lady pulled the window-blind down and there was no more sea, even occasionally. On the other side there was glass, then the corridor, then an open window, and outside the window were dusty trees and an oiled road and flat fields of grapes, with gray-stone hills behind them. There was smoke from many tall chimneys — coming into Marseilles, and the train slowed down and followed one track through many others into the station. The train stayed twenty-five minutes in the station at Marseilles and the American lady bought a copy of *The Daily Mail* and a half-bottle of Evian water. She walked a little way along the station platform, but she stayed near the steps of the car because at Cannes, where it stopped for twelve minutes, the train had left with no signal of departure and she had gotten on only just in time. The American lady was a little deaf and she was afraid that perhaps signals of departure were given and that she did not hear them.

The train left the station in Marseille and there was notonly the switch-yards and the factory smoke but, looking back, the town of Marseilles and the harbor with stone hills behind it and the last of the sun on the water. As it was getting dark the train passed a farmhouse burning in a field. Motor-cars were stopped along the road and bedding and things from inside the farmhouse were spread in the field. Many people were watching the house burn. After it was dark, the train was in Avignon. People got on and off. At the news-stand Frenchmen, returning to Paris, bought that day's French papers. On the station platform were negro soldiers. They wore brown uniforms and were tall and their faces shone, close under the electric light. Their faces were very black and they were too tall to stare. The train left Avignon station with the negroes standing there. A short white sergeant was with them.

Inside the *lit salon* compartment the porter had pulled down the three beds from inside the wall and prepared them for sleeping. In the night the American lady lay without sleeping because the train was a *rapide* and went very fast and she was afraid of the speed in the night. The American lady's bed was the one next to the window. The canary from Palermo, a cloth spread over his cage, was out of the draft in the corridor that went into the compartment wash-room. There was a blue light outside the compartment, and all night the train went very fast and the American lady lay awake and waited for a wreck.

In the morning the train was near Paris, and after the American lady had come out from the wash-room, looking very wholesome and middle-aged and American in spite of not having slept, and had taken the cloth off the birdcage and hung the cage in the sun, she went back to the restaurant-car for breakfast. When she came back to the *lit salon* compartment again, the beds had been pushed back into the wall and made into seats, the canary was shaking his feathers in the sunlight that came through the open window, and the train was much nearer Paris.

"He loves the sun," the American lady said. "He'll sing now in a little while."

The canary shook his feathers and pecked into them. "I've always loved birds," the American lady said. "I'm taking him home to my little girl. There — he's singing now."

The canary chirped and the feathers on his throats stood out, then he dropped his bill and pecked into his feathers again. The train crossed a river and passed through a very carefully tended forest. The train passed through many outside of Paris towns. There were tram-cars in the towns and big advertisements for the Belle Jardiniere and Dubonnet and Pernod on the walls toward the train. All that the train passed through looked as though it were before breakfast. For several minutes I had not listened to the American lady, who was talking to my wife.

"Is your husband American too?" asked the lady.

"Yes," said my wife. "We're both Americans."

"I thought you were English."

"Oh, no."

"Perhaps that was because I wore braces," I said. I had started to say suspenders and changed it to braces in the mouth, to keep my English character. The American lady did not hear. She was really quite deaf; she read lips, and I had not looked toward her. I had looked out of the window. She went on talking to my wife.

"I'm so glad you're Americans. American men make the best husbands," the American lady was saying. "That was why we left the Continent, you know. My daughter fell in love with a man in Vevey." She stopped. "They were simply madly in love." She stopped again. "I took her away, of course."

"Did she get over it?" asked my wife.

"I don't think so," said the American lady. "She wouldn't eat anything and she wouldn't sleep at all. I've tried so very hard, but she doesn't seem to take an interest in anything. She doesn't care about things. I couldn't have her marrying a foreigner." She paused. "Some one, a very good friend, told me once, 'No foreigner can make an American girl a good husband.'"

"No," said my wife, "I suppose not."

The American lady admired my wife's travelling-coat, and it turned out that the American lady had bought her own clothes for twenty years now from the same maison de coutoure in the Rue Saint Honore. They had her measurements, and a vendeuse who knew her and her tastes picked the dresses out for her and they were sent to America. They came to the post-office near where she lived up-town in New York, and the duty was never exorbitant because they opened the dresses there in the post-office to appraise them and they were always very simple-looking and with no gold lace nor ornaments that would make the dresses look expensive. Before the present vendeuse, named Therese, there had been another vendeuse, named Amelie. Altogether there had only been these two in the twenty years. It had always been the same couturier. Prices, however, had gone up. The exchange, though, equalized that. They had her daughter's measurements now too. She was grown up and there was not much chance of their changing now.

The train was now coming into Paris. The fortifications were levelled but grass had not grown. There were many cars standing on tracks-brown wooden restaurant-cars and brown wooden sleeping-cars that would go to Italy at five o'clock that night, if that train still left at five; the cars were marked Paris-Rome, and cars, with seats on the roofs, that went back and forth to the suburbs with, at certain hours, people in all the seats and on the roofs, if that were the way it were still done, and passing were the white walls and many windows of houses. Nothing had eaten any breakfast.

"Americans make the best husbands," the American lady said to my wife. I was getting down the bags. "American men are the only men in the world to marry."

"How long ago did you leave Vevey?" asked my wife.

"Two years ago this fall. It's her, you know, that I'm taking the canary to."

"Was the man your daughter was in love with a Swiss?"

"Yes," said the American lady. "He was from a very good family in Vevey. He was going to be an engineer. They met there in Vevey. They used to go on long walks together."

"I know Vevey," said my wife. "We were there on our honeymoon."

"Were you really? That must have been lovely. I had no idea, of course, that she'd fall in love with him."

"It was a very lovely place," said my wife.

"Yes," said the American lady. "Isn't it lovely? Where did you stop there?"

"We stayed at the Trois Couronnes," said my wife.

"It's such a fine old hotel," said the American lady.

"Yes," said my wife. "We had a very fine room and in the fall the country was lovely."

"Were you there in the fall?"

"Yes," said my wife.

We were passing three cars that had been in a wreck. They were splintered open and the roofs sagged in.

"Look," I said. "There's been a wreck."

The American lady looked and saw the last car. "I was afraid of just that all night," she said. "I have terrific presentiments about things sometimes. I'll never travel on a *rapide* again at night. There must be other comfortable trains that don't go so fast."

Then the train was in the dark of the Gare de Lyons, and then stopped and porters came up to the windows. I handed bags through the windows, and we were out on the dim longness of the platform, and the American lady put herself in change of one of three men from Cook's who said: "Just a moment, madame, and I'll look for your name."

The porter brought a truck and piled on the baggage, and my wife said good-by and I said good-by to the American lady, whose name had been found by the man from Cook's on a typewritten page in a sheaf of typewritten pages which he replaced in his pocket.

We followed the porter with the truck down the long cement platform beside the train. At the end was a gate and a man took the tickets.

We were returning to Paris to setup separate residences.

NOVEMBER

November, 11th month of the modern Western year, having 30 days. November was the ninth month of the old Roman calendar, whence its name from the Latin *novem* ("nine"). The Roman senate attempted to name it for Emperor Tiberius, but he refused the honor. The Anglo-Saxons called it the Blood Month, probably relating it to the time for butchering livestock. The American Thanksgiving and the Christian All Saints' Day are in November.

November is represented by a man sowing grain in the series of the months of Amiens Cathedral, France.